

Veeva Systems Inc. of Dublin (Franklin Co.) plans 46 new jobs, \$3.5 million in new payroll and the retention of \$2.1 million in payroll with its expansion. TCA awarded a 1.62%, seven-year tax credit for the project (\$355,000).

Modular Assembly Innovations LLC of Allen Township (Union Co.), which plans 40 new jobs, \$1.4 million in new payroll and the retention of \$7.6 million in payroll. The provider of manufacturing and modular assembly services to the automotive industry was awarded a 1.055%, six-year JCTC (\$90,000).

Kasich Declares Emergency As Flood Risks Continue

Two days after Gov. John Kasich declared a state of emergency in 17 counties, areas of Ohio are continuing to grapple with flooding.

On Saturday, the governor issued his emergency declaration in the face of flooding - particularly along the Ohio River, which was expected to crest Monday.

Although rains have stopped, flood waters linger in some areas, closing roads and posing ongoing safety risks. The National Weather Service has said flood warnings are expected to persist for several more days in the central U.S. as "numerous river systems will remain in flood stage this week."

"As the weather and flooding is expected to get worse we're staying ahead of things by taking our readiness up to the next level and declaring an emergency where we expect the worst conditions," Gov. Kasich said over the weekend. "We'll quickly add to those areas as it's needed."

Counties affected by the proclamation include: Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Columbiana, Gallia, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Monroe, Meigs, Muskingum, Scioto and Washington.

The state's Emergency Operations Center had been preparing for this round of flooding since at least Feb. 18. That's the day the Ohio EMA Watch Office began providing regular awareness reports multiple times a day to state, local and federal agencies.

In recent days meals have been provided to the elderly by the Department of Aging, emergency management liaisons have been dispatched to assist county-level operations centers, and swift water rescue teams have been positioned.

"Ohioans do a good job of looking out for each other and we're doing it again now also," Gov. Kasich said. "Teams at the local level are hard at work and state teams have been coordinating with them and supporting them over the past week."

Following the Kasich order, the EMA transitioned from assessment and monitoring to partial activation and the state's Joint Information Center was opened. That followed Ohio National Guard deployments to help install flood gates and a flood wall in Scioto County.

In recent days, state entities have assisted in providing sand bags and a water pump to communities in Lawrence County. A major rockslide on Monday closed a portion of a highway in that county, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation. State geologists were on the scene.

"I urge people to stay safe by staying informed, not taking any chances and checking in on your neighbors, especially seniors and families with young kids," the governor said. "Call your local city, county or Red Cross if there's anyone who needs help. We'll get through this as we always do, by working together."

At the same time, Attorney General Mike DeWine has issued several tips to steer residents away from flood-related scams that may arise.

"As people across Ohio assess the damage and start the clean-up process, we're reminding consumers to beware of scams," Mr. DeWine said. "Some con artists travel to affected communities to take advantage of people. They offer to help, but once they get your money, they're gone. After the flooding, we also could start to see flood-damaged vehicles entering the market. We just warn people to be careful."

Cyberattack Temporarily Shuts Down State Websites, Phones

The Department of Administrative Services is making modifications after a cyberattack blocked state websites and phone systems for multiple hours Sunday evening.

DAS spokesman Tom Hoyt said the attack was launched shortly after 5:30 p.m. Sunday and "was addressed quickly and remediated at approximately 9:50 p.m."

"It was not a breach - no personal information was compromised," Mr. Hoyt said.

Several accounts seemingly affiliated with the so-called "hactivist" group Anonymous appear to be taking credit for the attack on social media. Anonymous-linked users posted screenshots showing error pages that appeared when trying to access state websites.

The attack was a denial-of-service attack, which is a concerted effort in which users bombard a targeted system with requests, thereby overloading and disabling it for legitimate users.

"The attack itself was educational in the sense that we now know how this type of attack is done and we can put in filters and prepare to help us be ready if it happens again," Mr. Hoyt said. This is the first time DAS has grappled with this specific method of a denial-of-service attack.

"These types of attacks can be done in different ways so we're aware of them and prepare for them," Mr. Hoyt said. "This was conducted in a different way, but once you go through that, you learn how it's done and we can prepare for the next time."

It's not the first time the state has been faced with a cyberattack.

Nearly a dozen state websites were impacted last year after hackers posted pro-ISIS messages on state homepages. That "internet graffiti-style" attack, however, was believed to be surface-level in nature with hackers not accessing the state's servers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2017)

Environmental Group Calls For Setback, Chemical Reporting Changes Following Well Fire

The Ohio Environmental Council is pointing to a Feb. 15 explosion and fire at a Belmont County oil well as new evidence pointing to the need for increased well setbacks.

But a leading oil and gas group is accusing the council of seeking to block industry development with its latest call for new legislation.

A horizontal well operated by XTO caught fire earlier this month, causing explosions and leading to the evacuation of residents within a one mile perimeter as the well continued to leak methane and other gasses.

XTO has said it has contracted with various companies to monitor the area and oversee cleanup operations. It has also paid to house 100 households who were displaced. Those residing beyond a half mile from the site have since been moved back into their homes.

The OEC said the incident is a "wake up call" demonstrating a need to strengthen Ohio's current law requiring horizontal wells to be located at least 100 feet from rural homes.

"What this incident demonstrates is that Ohio's current setback laws for horizontal oil and gas wells are clearly insufficient and do very little to protect communities from this new wave of oil and gas development," said Melanie Houston, director of climate programs at the Ohio Environmental Council. "Given the frequency of horizontal well pad incidents in Ohio over the past five years, it is past time for Ohio lawmakers to reconsider a safer setback distance."

The group said the incident also shows the need to examine laws requiring well operators to disclose hazardous chemicals to emergency responders. That debate was a point of contention during budget talks last year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 14, 2017)

"State lawmakers also must close the chemical reporting loophole in Ohio law to make sure that first responders such as those responding to last week's incident can get the full accounting of chemical identities during oil and gas emergencies," Ms. Houston said.

The Ohio Oil and Gas Association, however, said 2012 legislation in that arena "created one of the most stringent regulatory programs for chemical disclosure in the nation."

That bill (SB315, 129th General Assembly) was a far-reaching energy mid-biennium review measure that strengthened requirements. But Democrats and environmental groups at the time said it didn't go far enough with its chemical disclosure provisions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2012)

"The bill required chemical disclosure to all first responders, providing access to the information that they need and allowed (the Ohio Department of Natural Resources) to ask for additional chemical information when there is an incident," said Matt Hammond, OOGA's senior vice president.

As far as the idea of increased setbacks, the organization accused OEC and its allies of attempting to use a setback increase to snuff out oil and gas development.

"We have all heard the calls for increased setback distances since 2003 and found that environmental groups have supported setback distances for the sole purpose to offend the property rights of landowners and effectively block oil and gas development," Mr. Hammond said.

Schiavoni, Williams Plan Firearm Removal Bill; Yost Unveils School Safety Plan; High Court Hears Janus Case; Kucinich Continues Gun Push...

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) on Monday announced their intention to introduce a bill allowing for the removal of firearms from people deemed to be an imminent danger to themselves or others.

The proposal would establish an Extreme Risk Protection Order that would allow family or law enforcement to ask a court to temporarily remove firearms for up to one year.

"Family members are often the first to know when a loved one starts showing signs that they're dangerous to themselves or people around them," Sen. Schiavoni, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement. "Sadly, there aren't many options available to be proactive, remove weapons and prevent those moments from becoming tragedies. This bill is common sense. It provides a clear process when loved ones notice those red flags."

Five other states have similar laws. In announcing the intention to introduce the measure, the lawmakers cited Gov. John Kasich, who in a recent television interview expressed support for ERPOs.

"I am pleased to see the conversation turn and the mood shift toward sensible gun safety measures in Ohio," Sen. Williams said. "I'm also pleased to see Gov. Kasich supporting efforts to combat gun violence. We know how to reduce gun violence in America while still respecting the Second Amendment. This bill is a step forward in that direction."

School Safety: State Auditor Dave Yost on Monday rolled out a three-point school safety plan centered on securing buildings.

The attorney general hopeful's plan calls for a statewide inventory of security measures at all 5,200 school buildings across the state and a bond-backed program to modify them to create a single point of entry, install electronic zoned locking systems and add video cameras.

The final piece of the plan calls for the establishment of a training program for school staff volunteers with prior military or law enforcement experience.

"We need to protect our kids at school at least as well as we protect our politicians at work," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "This program takes the same proven tactics and technology we use in government offices-and many private businesses-and puts them to work in our schools, where our greatest treasures are."

Janus Case: A day ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court hearing oral arguments in a case that could have far-reaching implications for public sector unions, hundreds gathered on the Statehouse lawn for the "Working People's Day of Action."

The event also comes in the wake of six pieces of legislation introduced in Ohio to revise collective bargaining laws.

"The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus stands in solidarity with labor and working people," Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President and Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) said in a statement. "Right to Work is wrong and has no place in the state of Ohio. Fair labor practices, equitable pay, representation in the workplace and building power through unity are essential to making Ohio stronger, and should be a guaranteed right to all who are willing to work."

Buckeye Institute President Robert Alt said the questioning by Justice Anthony Kennedy during oral arguments should leave union supporters concerned.

"Given how frequently Justice Kennedy is in the majority, his questions have to be a cause of concern for those seeking to continue the practice of forcing public servants to pay for union speech with which they may disagree," he said.

Gun Control: The gubernatorial campaign of Dennis Kucinich continues to put gun control in the spotlight.

In the latest move, Mr. Kucinich's running mate, Akron City Councilwoman Tara Samples, plans to introduce a measure to urge state lawmakers to pass a ban on assault weapons.

"Dennis and I, with the help of more than 2,000 grassroots volunteers, are working to convince every city council and every board of education all across Ohio to support getting these killing machines off our streets," she said in a statement. "I couldn't be more proud that my own community is about to become the first in Ohio to take this step."

New Polling: A Suffolk University/USA Today poll released Monday found strong support for additional gun restrictions, including 63% of respondents who want semi-automatic weapons banned.

Another 76% said that people treated for mental illness should be banned from owning firearms and 61% said stronger gun control law and background checks could prevent more mass shootings.

The poll also found that 62% believe schools should be required to have metal detectors and 58% believe there should be a requirement that schools have a armed police officer stationed on campus.

However, just 19% believe the prospects of Congress passing gun-control measures are good to excellent and 25% believe there is a fair chance for legislative action. Another 51% said the chances are poor.

"Voters see a Congress that is deaf to their wishes about remedying gun violence in the United States," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston

The nationwide survey of 1,000 individuals, which has a margin of error of 3%, also found that President Donald Trump's approval rating stands at 38%, down from 47% one year ago.

"President Trump's job performance ratings have had several ups and downs in the past year, with last March's relatively strong showing coming in the aftermath of a well-received speech to Congress," Mr. Paleologos said. "The bump he got after signing the tax bill in December appears to have been overwhelmed in light of young people challenging him on gun issues and the investigation of Russian meddling in U.S elections."

ODP Training: The Ohio Democratic Party announced Monday that more than 110 candidates took part in its "Main Street Initiative," which provides training and support to candidates.

"What Democrats are seeing nationally, we're seeing here in Ohio, too - the unprecedented energy and enthusiasm of the grassroots is turning into record numbers of Democratic candidates running in races up and down the ballot," ODP Chairman David Pepper said in a statement. "We're proud to support our state and local candidates when they run for office, as we build our bench of great public servants. We look forward to working with our 2018 'Main Street' candidates from now through Election Day and then touting their successes once they're in office."

Governor's Appointments

State Auctioneers Commission: Theresa M. Blocher of Paris for a term beginning February 26, 2018, and ending October 9, 2020.

Board of Nursing: Lauralee S. Krabill of Sandusky and Patricia A. Sharpnack of Chardon for terms beginning February 26, 2018, and ending December 31, 2021

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, March 5

One Ohio Now news conference on state data ahead of the State of the State Address, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7


Rep. Martin J. Sweeney (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Marty, We Love You; \$1,000-\$5,000; Best Buddy; \$500; Good Pal; \$100 Friend: \$25 to Friends of Martin J. Sweeney)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 2:47 PM

To: Best, Carolyn

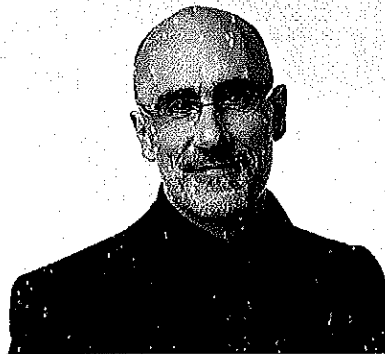
Subject: AEI President Arthur Brooks to address The Buckeye Institute luncheon
March 21

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



You are cordially invited to join us for an extraordinary luncheon talk featuring American Enterprise Institute (AEI) President Arthur Brooks on Wednesday, March 21, at noon.

This is a very special event and great opportunity that you don't want to miss, so register soon as it will likely sell out. (Further details available by following registration link.)

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Your friends at The Buckeye Institute

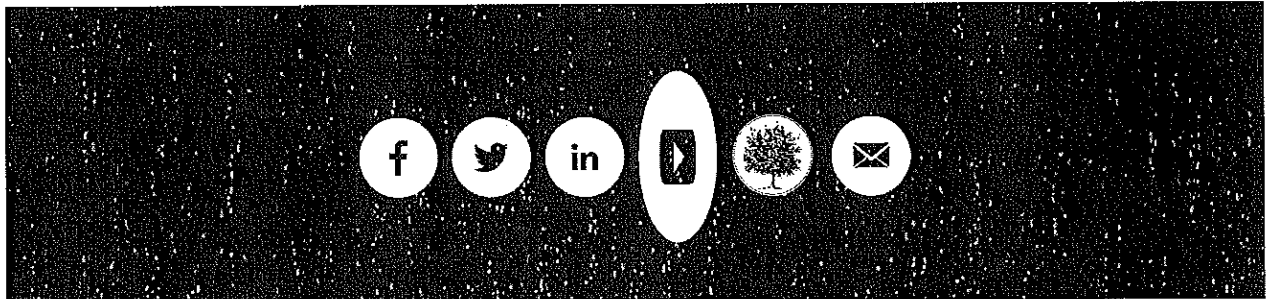
Register to Attend

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

= A

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 5:05 PM
To: House_All
Subject: FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti
Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

Kristin Boggs

Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Fedor, Teresa
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:34 PM
To: Paretti, Dominic
CC: House_All
Subject: Re: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

Yes

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2018, at 5:05 PM, Paretti, Dominic <Dominic.Paretti@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS
MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti
Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

<image001.png>
MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave

benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov.

<image002.jpg>

Janine Boyd

State Representative, Ohio House District 09

<image003.png>

Kristin Boggs

State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: Capitol Letter
Sent: Thursday, March 1, 2018 6:15 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: House OKs bill allowing debt-settlement companies in Ohio

= 9

Thursday, March 1, 2018

[View in Browser](#)

= 9



= 9

Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

= 9

= 9



= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9 **Rotunda Rumblings**

= 9 **Debt settlement bill clears House:** The Ohio House on Wednesday voted 58-37 to pass legislation allowing for-profit debt settlement providers — companies hired to negotiate lower payments with a debtor's creditors — to operate in the state. Supporters of House Bill 182 say it will give consumers more choices to avoid financial ruin. Opponents say the measure (which now heads to the Senate) would allow non-lawyers to engage in the practice of law and wouldn't cap fees the companies could charge.

= 9 **Payday lending reform deal?** House Speaker Pro Tem Kirk Schuring told reporters Wednesday that a revised bill to toughen rules on payday

lenders will be unveiled "maybe in the next two weeks." Schuring and Rep. Kyle Koehler have been holding behind-the-scenes meeting for months on the issue. Schuring suggested the new proposal wouldn't address auto-title lending: "As Rep. Koehler has said many times over, that's already in the revised code."

= 9

Some aren't willing to wait: Anti-payday lender advocates took a first step Wednesday toward putting a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot that would impose stricter rules on the industry. Cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt has more on what they're seeking to do.

= 9 **Tuition tax-break:** The Ohio House on Wednesday passed Senate Bill 22, which would move Ohio's tax code in line with the recently passed GOP federal tax-reform plan, including allowing tax-advantaged 529 college savings accounts to also be used for K-12 tuition at private schools -- an estimated \$20 million tax break, according to critics. The bill now heads back to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

= A **Local matters:** House members also voted overwhelmingly to pass House Bill 415, which would drive half of any annual state general revenue fund surplus into a new fund for local government road improvements. Representatives also passed House Bill 422 (which would allow municipalities to sell or lease their wastewater or sewage-treatment systems to utility companies).

= 9 **Election officials:** On the other side of the Statehouse, the Ohio Senate voted 27-5 to pass a bill that could reduce from four to two the number of precinct election officials in a multi-precinct voting location that uses electronic poll books. Senate Bill 21 sponsor Joe Uecker said the Ohio Association of Election Officials asked for the bill, and local governments would have the option of whether to reduce the number. The bill now heads to the House.

= 9 **Saving the Crew?** The Ohio Senate unanimously adopted a non-binding resolution urging the Major League Soccer team -- whose owner has threatened to move it to Austin, Texas -- to stay in Ohio. However, lawmakers appear unwilling to bow to owner Anthony Precourt's demand that the team play in a downtown Columbus stadium, as there is no money

for any stadium in the capital budget bill.

= 9 **Not a good feel for O'Neill:** An Ohio Democratic Party vetting committee has expressed deep concerns that if Bill O'Neill wins the party's nomination for governor, he could sink the whole Democratic ticket, Capitol Letter's Laura Hancock reports. The committee cited the former Ohio Supreme Court justice's financial and ethical challenges and inflammatory social media posts. Still, O'Neill, a regular critic of party leadership, will be allowed to participate in party debates.

= 9 **Ted's take:** Ohio 12th Congressional District Democratic candidate Danny O'Connor picked up an endorsement Wednesday from ex-Gov. Ted Strickland. In a statement, Strickland said the Franklin County recorder "represents our best chance of taking back this seat."

= 9 **Stories We're Talking About**

= 9 **Heavey hammer:** Dr. Jon Heavey, a Rocky River doctor hoping to run for governor, sued the Ohio secretary of state's office over its decision to keep him off the ballot, cleveland.com's Seth Richardson writes. Heavey did not receive enough valid signatures to qualify for the May primary ballot, the secretary of state's office contends. "We're confident we have professional compliance experts working to regain our ballot access," Heavey said in a statement.

= A **Saving pensions:** Ohio's U.S. senators, Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, were named to a committee whose mission is "to try to preserve union retirees' pensions without a raid on the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp," cleveland.com's Stephen Koff writes. Brown will co-chair the panel.

= 9

Fresh look: The state will begin mailing driver's licenses and identification cards instead of issuing them at Ohio's license bureaus beginning July 2, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles announced Wednesday. The licenses and cards will also feature a new look with more security features, cleveland.com's Karen Farkas writes.

= 9 **A wealth of information:** U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci is the 16th most wealthy member of Congress, according to Roll Call, cleveland.com's [Sabrina Eaton reports](#). The Republican U.S. Senate candidate is Ohio's wealthiest member of Congress, with at least \$34.4 million in assets. Eaton has Roll Call's rankings for all Ohio Congress members.

= 9

Nope: A federal judge in Akron on Wednesday threw out a legal challenge to an Ohio internet harassment law by the liberal blog Plunderbund and the Portage County Tea Party, cleveland.com's [Eric Heisig writes](#). The lawsuit, filed in May, challenged a law passed in April 2016. It claimed that the law was overly broad and violated the First Amendment by prohibiting critical speech of public officials.

= 9 **Five Questions**

= 9

Republican Frank Hoagland is a first-term Ohio senator who served as a Navy SEAL for nearly 30 years. He and his wife were high school prom king and queen and have been married for over 35 years. They have two grown sons, Luke and Josh.

= A 1. *As a Navy SEAL, you fought the war on drugs. What should Ohio do about the opioid crisis?*

= 9

"We've got to think outside the box...[which] in some cases is extremely difficult to do when you hang around the flagpole... The use of technology is going to be a huge asset in fighting the opioid issue, and some tough love. I've actually been working on a project with some former military guys that is way outside the box of thinking of what we have been doing in the state of Ohio."

= 9 2. *Could you elaborate a little bit on the project?*

= 9 "There is a program out on the West Coast that has gone through a four-year study for guys that have PTSD, anxiety and depression. My first year in office was pretty tough, because I had several of my friends commit suicide and another friend of mine went through this treatment... He hung in there and he's claiming it's because of the treatment that he got... I

believe that if we can treat the mind, the body will follow.”

= 9 3. *You're a retired Navy SEAL and first-term senator. Are there any similarities between the two jobs?*

= 9

“Making the right decision, and that's very serious... In my past life, if I made a decision just an increment of time too early, that could have been a bad decision. If I made a decision just a small increment of time too late, that could have been the wrong decision. Now the difference was, in the world that I came from, people died. In this world, we are talking about policy changes.”

= 9

4. *What do you like to do in your spare time when you're not working as a lawmaker?*

= 9 3 01 I like to build things. I built my own house. I built my own swimming pool during the campaign, believe it or not. I built it my own self. It saved me a boatload of money.”

= 9 5. *How long have you had your dog?*

= 9 “Since she was a little fur ball. Her name is Stella. I always name my dogs after things that I either do or see. So, when we first bought her... I stand there drinking a beer and my pal says, ‘Hoag, what are you going to name your dog?’ And I am looking at the beer I am drinking, and it said ‘Stella’ 0 and below that it said ‘Belgian.’ I got a Belgian [Malinois] dog. I got a Belgian beer. I guess I'll call her Stella.”

= 9 **What's Going On Today**

= 9

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Women's Fund of Central Ohio Statehouse Day: Events around the Statehouse include a luncheon with guest speaker Lilly Ledbetter, the plaintiff in a landmark gender pay equity lawsuit.

= 9 **9 a.m. – Sen. Frank LaRose to outline changes to voting-machine bill:** The Republican secretary of state candidate plans to discuss a substitute bill to his legislation, Senate Bill 135, that would offer state

money for counties to buy new voting machines. *Harding Press Room, Room 109, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **9:30 a.m. – Senate Finance Committee:** After LaRose's news conference, the panel is set to adopt the sub bill to SB 135. *Finance Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

= 9 **11 a.m. – Betty Sutton to tour manufacturing tech center in Cleveland:** The Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor is set to discuss manufacturing career training programs with administrators at the Tri-C Manufacturing Technology Center. *2415 Woodland Ave., Cleveland.*

= 9 **11:30 a.m. – Rep. Rick Carfagna fundraiser:** The Delaware County Republican is seeking contributions between \$350 and \$1,000. *OHROC, 7th Floor, 21 W. Broad St.*

= 9

5 to 7 p.m. – Danny O'Connor congressional campaign kickoff: Sponsor levels for the Democratic 12th Congressional District candidate range from \$100 to \$2,700. Admission for Young Democrats is \$25. *Rambling House, 310 E. Hudson St.*

= 9 **Birthdays**

= 9

U.S. Rep. Warren Davidson

= 9 Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo

= 9 Joseph Nichols, Buckeye Institute strategic partnerships officer

State Rep. Dorothy Pelanda

The State of Ohio (it was admitted to the Union on March 1, 1803)

= 9

Straight From The Source

= 9 "#BringBackTheMooch"

= 9

- Amanda Wurst on Twitter Wednesday, responding to reports that White House Communications Director Hope Hicks is leaving. Wurst, Democratic ex-Gov. Ted Strickland's press secretary, jokingly advocated for Anthony Scaramucci to return to the post.

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at

Capitolletter@cleveland.com

= 9

= A

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

To ensure receipt of our emails, please add cleveland.com_newsletters@update.cleveland.com to your address book or safe sender list. You received this email because you opted-in to the newsletter. Was it forwarded to you? [Sign up now!](#)

= 9

= 9

= 9 [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [CONTACT US](#)

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 8:50 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 3/2/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

3/2/2018



BILL WOULD REQUIRE DRIVERS TO MOVE OVER FOR GARBAGE TRUCKS

The Ohio House will consider legislation giving garbage trucks "move-over" protections in place for emergency vehicles.

NEXT PHASE OPENS IN OHIO'S \$8M OPIOID TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Ohio launched the second stage of its global technology challenge Wednesday aimed at finding solutions to the U.S. opioid crisis.

MORE THAN 131,000 ISSUED CONCEALED CARRY LICENSES IN OHIO

Ohio's attorney general says more than 131,000 residents were issued licenses last year to carry concealed weapons.

OHIO BILL WOULD ALLOW PROTECTIVE ORDERS FOR DATING VIOLENCE

A bipartisan bill allowing victims of dating violence to seek protective orders against alleged perpetrators is on its way to Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich.

KASICH PROPOSES 'RED FLAG' LAW, OTHER GUN CHANGES IN STATE

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday advocated a "red flag" law for Ohio, a ban on armor-piercing ammunition and other gun policy positions he says represent political consensus in a bellwether state that could fly nationally.

2 DEMOCRATS FOR OHIO OFFICES WANT OPEN REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Two Democrats seeking statewide office in Ohio are pitching a plan they say would guarantee Ohio's redistricting process for congressional districts is more transparent to the public.



FOR SCHIAVONI RUNNING MATE, DRUG CRISIS IS ALL IN THE FAMILY

Ohio's opioid epidemic is so extensive that it's struck the families of at least two of those seeking statewide office.

KASICH UNVEILS 'UNANIMOUS' PROPOSALS TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE

Saying he has to deal with the art of what's possible — what can pass the Republican-dominated General Assembly, Gov. John Kasich proposed six gun-law reforms on Thursday that he believes he can help Ohio avert some gun deaths.

CRITICS SLAM MEDICAID WORK PROPOSAL

Advocates, health-care providers and others slammed a state plan on Thursday that would require most non-disabled adults on Medicaid to work or lose their tax-funded health care.

LAWMAKERS OFFER COUNTIES \$114.5 MILLION FOR VOTING MACHINES

Counties would get nearly \$115 million in state money to replace aging voting machines in time for the 2019 election under a bill expected to pass the legislature this spring.

REP. BOGGS NEEDS HELP TO QUALIFY FOR PRIMARY BALLOT

State Rep. Kristin Boggs, D-Columbus, will need help from Republican Secretary of State Jon Husted in order to qualify to run as a write-in candidate for the May primary.

MAYOR GINTHER ENDORSES CORDRAY FOR GOVERNOR

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther on Thursday endorsed Richard Cordray, former Ohio attorney general and former director of the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, in the Democratic primary for governor.

EDITORIAL: WORKPLACE DRUG USE DEMANDS ATTENTION

Drugs and workplaces don't mix. That's common sense, but now employers have more reasons to take a hard line against employee drug use.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

MORE THAN 131,000 OHIOANS GET PERMITS TO CARRY CONCEALED GUNS

More than 131,000 Ohioans got their licenses last year to carry concealed weapons — 77,281 new ones and 54,064 renewals, according to Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

THE PLAIN DEALER

\$114.5 MILLION PROPOSED FOR NEW OHIO VOTING MACHINES

Ohio counties could soon get some money from the state to help replace aging voting equipment.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TO FOCUS ON OHIO RACES FOR U.S. SENATE AND GOVERNOR

Planned Parenthood political organizations announced Thursday that they'll spend at least \$20 million in this year's elections, with a particular focus on gubernatorial and Senate races in Ohio and seven other states.

OHIO GOV. JOHN KASICH PROPOSES 6 GUN POLICY CHANGES

Tightening background checks for gun buyers and allowing "red flag" protection orders were among six gun violence policy recommendations made Thursday by a bipartisan panel assembled by Gov. John Kasich.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HASN'T DECIDED WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN OPIOID LITIGATION

As U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions promised, the Justice Department on Thursday evening filed a "statement of interest" in the swath of lawsuits being heard in Cleveland that accuse drug manufacturers and distributors of heavily contributing to the nation's opioid epidemic.

THE ENQUIRER

JOHN KASICH'S 'COMMONSENSE' GUN CONTROL PLAN: WOULD NEW OHIO GUN LAWS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

John Kasich wants to change Ohio's gun laws, touting support for "commonsense" measures from a handful of Republicans and Democrats.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

KASICH PROPOSES GUN REFORM MEASURES

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday unveiled a package of proposed gun law reforms to prohibit the sale of armor-piercing ammunition and third-party "strawman" sales of guns to people prohibited from having them.

PROPOSAL WOULD FUND NEW VOTING MACHINES

Ohio would borrow \$114.5 million to help counties replace an aging fleet of voting machines in time by next year under a bill reworked Thursday.

EDITORIAL: RIGHT-TO-WORK INFRINGES ON EMPLOYERS

Is it too much to ask for some consistency from time to time?

EDITORIAL: DENNIS KUCINICH LEADING ON GUN ISSUE

Successful political campaigns sometimes catch a breeze they never counted on because of some unexpected occurrence that changes public attitudes between the time the candidates filed and the time the voters vote.

The Vindicator

SCHIAVONI GETS THE MAHONING DEMOCRATIC ENDORSEMENT FOR GOVERNOR

When it came to endorsing a candidate for governor, the Mahoning County Democratic Party overwhelmingly went for one of its own.

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 1:14 PM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Rea Hederman in National Review, Can States Repair Obamacare's Damage?

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In National Review, Buckeye's Rea S. Hederman Jr. and the Galen Institute's Doug Badger call on Congress and the administration to give states more latitude to fix their health insurance markets, which is the central recommendation of their new **Mercatus Center** study.

NATIONAL REVIEW

Can States Repair Obamacare's Damage?

National Review
By Doug Badger and Rea Hederman
March 2, 2018

Washington broke insurance markets. It should let states try to fix them.

Having failed to repeal the Affordable Care Act, congressional Republicans now want to create a new **corporate welfare program** to save it.

Here's a better idea: Congress and the administration should give states more latitude to clean up the mess - at no additional cost to the federal government.

That is a central recommendation of a new **Mercatus Center study** that we co-authored. Our study examined congressional and federal proposals that surfaced throughout last year in the broader context of the star-crossed "repeal and replace" debate.

The most promising ideas to repair broken insurance markets emanated not from Washington, but from the states.

That should surprise no one. States have traditionally been the primary regulators of health insurance, as they are for other forms of insurance. Obamacare rests on the hubris that federal bureaucrats could regulate health-insurance markets better than could states.

Federal intervention has proven a mixed blessing or a mixed curse, depending on your point of view. Insurance coverage is more accessible to those with chronic medical conditions who don't have employer-sponsored insurance and don't qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. More low-income people have insurance today than in 2013. If you spend **\$1.8 trillion** on Medicaid expansions and subsidies, you're bound to help some.

But others are hurting. Premiums for non-group coverage **more than doubled** between 2013 (the year before Obamacare took effect) and 2017 and increased by another **37 percent** this year. Consumers, like many insurers, have responded by abandoning those markets. The individual market **began to shrink** in 2016, a contraction that appears to have accelerated last year.

Yet the green shoots of state innovation continue to sprout from Obamacare's ruins. The question is whether Washington will nurture or uproot them.

Our study chronicles how federal legislative efforts to repeal Obamacare gradually evolved to allow more state control over how federal resources would be directed and more latitude to deviate from the law's stultifying regulatory regime.

At the same time, the Trump administration **encouraged states** to take full advantage of an obscure **provision** of the Obamacare statute that permits the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to grant waivers to states to sidestep some of the law's most onerous requirements.

States responded aggressively to the administration's overtures. A number of proposals emerged, each of which set forth cutting-edge ways to make health insurance more affordable, especially to those who don't qualify for federal subsidies.

Most importantly, states had to show that their waivers wouldn't result in additional federal spending. Instead, their programs had to allocate federal dollars more efficiently, reducing premiums and, as a consequence, federal premium-assistance subsidies, holding the federal government harmless.

Alaska, unlike other states, won federal approval for its "reinsurance" waiver. They finance it partially with state funds and partially with federal money that would otherwise have been paid directly to insurers on behalf of low-income enrollees. The results are promising. Premiums for the lowest-priced Bronze plan in the state fell by **25 percent** in 2018. In other states, premiums for such plans rose by a median of 16.4 percent.

Congressional Republicans are learning the wrong lessons from Alaska. The insurance lobby has convinced GOP lawmakers that state reinsurance programs would work even better if they weren't budget-neutral to the federal government. The more the feds **spend**, lobbyists argue, the more consumers will save.

Our study suggests that giving states more control over their markets (rather than more money for insurance companies) is the far better path. Allowing them more latitude to deviate from the ACA's stringent structure can help make insurance more affordable, while still protecting consumers.

Unfortunately, many states are feeling burned. The Trump administration invited them to innovate, then declined to approve many of their innovative proposals. The administration should restore that trust by rescinding Obama-era guidelines that impose counterproductive limitations on waivers and taking additional steps to streamline the waiver approval process.

Congress also should consider building on a legislative **proposal** by Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) and Bill Cassidy (R., La.) that would empower states to implement consumer-centered health-care reform. The Graham-Cassidy measure would provide federal resources to states instead of to insurance companies and task states with designing programs to make individual health insurance affordable to their residents, regardless of their income or medical condition.

At the very least, Congress should refrain from spending additional federal money on reinsurance arrangements that states can implement in a budget-neutral way. Like the administration, it should instead work to make the Obamacare waiver process more friendly to states.

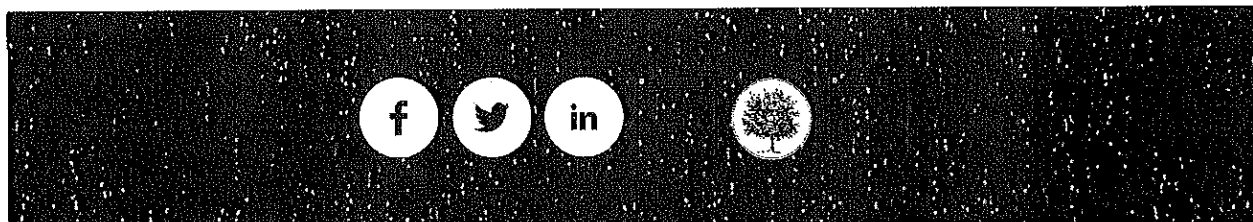
Waivers give states authority to do what Congress has failed to do: calm the market turbulence that Congress itself created with Obamacare's enactment. Congress and the administration should facilitate the use of that authority.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

= A



= A

= A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 7:01 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

**More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's
Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests**
Ohio's Capital Budget Riddled with More Than \$85 Million in Pork Spending

= A

Columbus, OH -- Today, **The Buckeye Institute** unveiled its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018, which total more than \$18 million in spending. Buckeye's review of the capital budget also found more than \$85 million in pork barrel or highly localized projects that should be paid for with private donations or through local efforts.

"As our Top 10 list shows, once again, Ohio's capital budget is riddled with pork projects that benefit narrow local interests and not larger state needs. If these, and other pork projects in the budget, were funded using local or private dollars, as they should be, Ohio could have at least \$85 million more that it could spend on pressing state priorities, save, or

better yet, return to taxpayers," said Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "Policymakers should do more to heed our call to focus the capital budget on **strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure** and move away from projects of predominately local interest. Simply put, it is hard to see how it benefits someone in Youngstown for Cincinnati to get a soccer stadium or how people in Cleveland benefit from renovations to COSI."

Buckeye's Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018

- **\$400,000** to build government owned broadband networks in North Olmsted, Southern Miami Valley, and Fairborn. The Buckeye Institute has shown these networks would be **better built by the private sector**;
- **\$5 million** for the **COSI Connection Corridor**, a retail and restaurant space, in Columbus;
- **\$1 million** for two **Columbus Zoo exhibits**, which is partially funded by Franklin County property taxes;
- **\$1 million** for an **atrium at the North Market** that will connect it to the 35-story office and residential Market Tower;
- **\$800,000** for six splash pads around the state;
- **\$2.5 million** to expand the **Cleveland Museum of Natural History**;
- **\$1.3 million** to renovate the **Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls**;
- **\$4 million** for a **new Major League Soccer stadium in Cincinnati**. The money will only be released if Cincinnati is awarded an MLS expansion team;
- **\$1.2 million** for renovations to Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; and
- **\$1 million** for renovations to the **Toledo Museum of Art**.

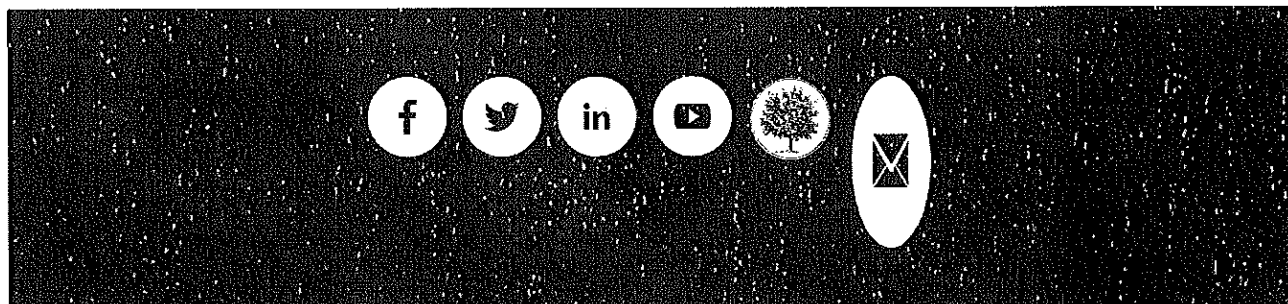
In its report in *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, Buckeye outlined three principles to guide policymakers - constrain the growth of state government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus spending on the core functions of state government. The Buckeye Institute also urged policymakers to use the 2018 capital budget to strengthen Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure.

A review of the capital budget shows that more than \$1 billion is being used to strengthen Ohio's physical infrastructure and there is no money in the capital budget being used to strengthen Ohio's democratic infrastructure.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



= A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 11:11 AM
To: Paretti, Dominic
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS THIS FRIDAY AT 4PM



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship = 6 Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption,

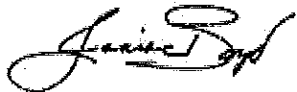
or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

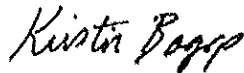
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

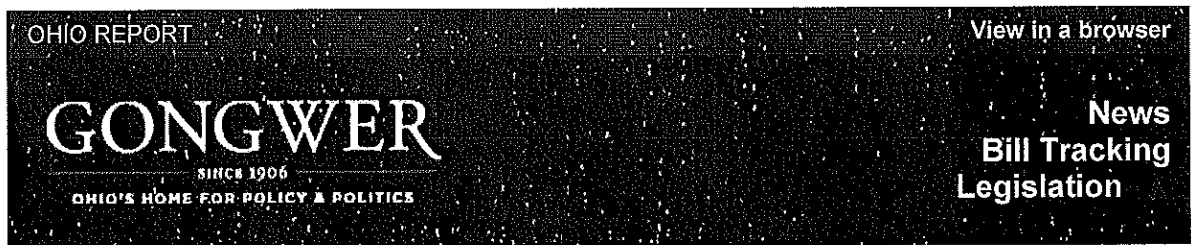


Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

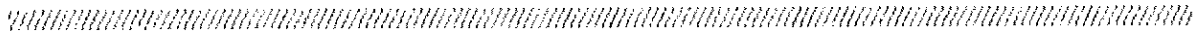
From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 6:34 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, March 5, 2018
Attachments: 180305dayplan.htm; Mar5.htm

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please unsubscribe



OHIO REPORT MONDAY, MARCH 5



Children Services Rule To Get Second Look After Concerns Raised At JCARR

Report Outlines Ohio's Rankings Ahead Of Kasich's Address

Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office

Opioid Prescriptions Fall For Fifth Straight Year, Pharmacy Board Reports

DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS

Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff

House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary

Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps

Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

= A

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2018, Gongwer News Service/Ohio
17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)



Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, March 6

Legislative Committees

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Beagle, B., 466-6247), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of M. Beth Trombold, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Gregory Murphy, Power Siting Board

HB 478 **WIRELESS SERVICES** (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.

HB 529 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 508 **OHIO CORPS** (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the Ohio Corps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 378 **BROADBAND GRANTS** (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

SB 226 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Rm. 121, 1 p.m.

HB 501 **VETERINARY TITLES** (LaTourette, S., Huffman, S.) To change professional title of "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HR 298 **ALFALFA PRODUCTS** (Sprague, R., Hill, B.) To recognize the existence of two alfalfa products in light of the recent action of the Ingredient Definition Committee of the Association of American Feed Control Officials. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.

SB 266 **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make

reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

SB 225 **BROADBAND GRANTS** (**Schiavoni, J., Eklund, J.**) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 246 **STUDENT REMOVAL** (**Lehner, P., Manning, G.**) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre-kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 329 **PYRAMID SCHEMES** (**Pelanda, D.**) To modify the law governing pyramid promotional schemes. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

House Session (Committee Record), **Senate Session** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357, Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900**), **Fritsche Theater, Otterbein University, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville, 7 p.m.**

- **Joint convention for the Governor's State of the State address**

Agency Calendar

Small Business Advisory Council, Women's Small Business Accelerator's ThinkSpace, 24 Westerview Dr., Westerville, 10 a.m.

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Event Planner

OhioLINK, Ohio Department of Higher Education discussion on textbook affordability and open educational resources, Otterbein University, Towers Hall, Westerville, 10 a.m.

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Granville Township) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger,
Jon Reed, Staff Writers

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Volume #87, Report #43 -- Monday, March 5, 2018

Children Services Rule To Get Second Look After Concerns Raised At JCARR

The Department of Job and Family Services will refile a proposed rule dealing with child abuse and neglect investigations after agencies said it would lead to more cases and higher costs.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio told members of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review Monday that the proposed rules would prevent agencies from making "collateral contacts" before deciding to accept a case. That means they would not be able to check certain details, such as whether a parent was in drug treatment, before opening an investigation.

ODJFS argued the county agencies have long been advised in state guidance not to do so. Contacting other people about a potential child abuse or neglect case before contacting the parent can jeopardize the parent's privacy.

The proposed rule changes were designed in part to incorporate revisions to the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which require more mandatory reporting in cases where children are born addicted to drugs.

The department included the provision preventing collateral contacts before cases to reinforce provisions that have been in guidance for more than a decade, Carla Carpenter, deputy director for the Office of Families and Children at ODJFS, told JCARR.

"The change to the rule merely echoes the guidance that we have been providing since 2005," she said.

Mary Wachtel, director of public policy for the PCSAO, said the rules would make it harder for agencies to screen potential cases by preventing them from following up for more information on referrals before opening an official investigation. It could lead to agencies opening investigations for children who aren't being neglected or abused, opening cases that would require home visits and other costs, she said.

"We are talking about a judicious, somewhat limited use of pre-screening collateral contacts," she said.

Other states allow for collateral contacts before cases are screened in, she said. Those states often have limits, such as that the only people to be contacted would be mandatory reporters of abuse or neglect, such as medical providers.

Ms. Wachtel suggested the department convene a stakeholder group to work out a solution.

"There is a fix here," she said. "We respectfully request that the rules be withdrawn to give time for a substantive discussion and consideration."

The department consulted with stakeholders before drafting the rule, Ms. Carpenter said.

Agencies are given 24 hours to gather information from internal sources, such as if the parent has had previous contact with the child welfare system, and to work back with the person referring the case, she said.

In many cases, particularly those involving drug abuse under the CARA provisions, the person making the referral is a medical professional, Ms. Carpenter said. In those cases, the provider can obtain a release of medical records from the parent to demonstrate that the parent has a drug treatment care plan, for example.

Lawmakers pressed the department on what would happen if the person making the referral was not a medical provider.

"How can you get a written release when you're not allowed to make a collateral contact?" Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) asked.

The agencies would be able to look at the information they have and to ask follow-up to the person referring the case, Ms. Carpenter said. The rules follow the same procedure as guidance in place now.

"They essentially would be making that decision the same way they do today," she said.

JCARR Chair Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) asked how many counties are not complying with the guidelines.

Ms. Carpenter said the department wasn't aware of deviation from the guidance until recently.

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said the agency indicated the rule change would have no fiscal effect for the state or for counties, but it could increase the number of cases agencies take on.

The department said the change only codified what was expected to be standard practice, and increases weren't anticipated, Ms. Carpenter said.

"We have a duty as children services agencies to respond to reports that require our attention," she said. "We don't have control over what comes through our front door."

JCARR members caucused for about 45 minutes on the issue, after which ODJFS officials said they would refile the rule pending further discussions with stakeholders.

Report Outlines Ohio's Rankings Ahead Of Kasich's Address

While the state comes in above national averages for the number of residents with health insurance, students enrolled in Pre-K, and structurally sound bridges, it is lagging behind in a number of other areas, a new report shows.

One Ohio Now, a coalition of more than 100 health and human service organizations, labor unions and advocacy groups, released its third annual State of Ohio report on Monday. It shows Ohio's rankings in 16 areas encompassing health, education, the economy and equality.

State Director Gavin DeVore Leonard said it's important that Ohioans have a full picture of how the state is doing before the governor delivers his annual State of the State address on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, what typically happens with the State of the State is sort of cherry picking the things that make you sound the best, the things you feel like you have the most likelihood of succeeding on in the future, and then often times sort of glazing over the things that are really at the foundation of what's happening, particularly in a place like Ohio, where there is just no getting around it, we are struggling. We're having a hard time keeping up," he said during a Statehouse press event.

Gov. John Kasich and those close to him haven't divulged what his speech will entail, but he told reporters last week that it will be "odd" and "different" than in past years. Being his last SOTS address, he's expected to recap his accomplishments while in office and focus on how he's helped to change state operations during his tenure. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 2, 2018)

Responding to the One Ohio Now report, his spokesman, Jon Keeling, touted the impacts the governor's leadership has had on the state over the last seven years.

"Jobs are up. Wages are growing. More Ohioans have health coverage. Support for K-12 education is at record levels. Poverty is the lowest in nearly a decade. We're taking better care of the vulnerable and those who live in the shadows. And Ohioans are wearing our colors with pride in ways this state hasn't seen in a long time," he said.

"The governor has set a new standard for leadership here in Ohio, and if those values are continued the stage is set for even more progress long after he's gone."

In addition to showing where the state ranks nationally, the report also compares last year's stats to this year's. As infant mortality, overdose deaths and poverty got worse in Ohio in 2017, the state has improved in the areas of college tuition, home foreclosures and hunger.

Despite improvements in some categories, it shouldn't be overlooked that Ohio still ranks at the bottom of states, Mr. DeVore Leonard said.

Higher investments in underperforming areas, such as K-12 and programs combatting hunger could save the state billions of dollars in the long term because Ohioans would be better off, he said.

Especially in K-12, where spending on an inflationary basis has been stagnant since 2002, it's "hard to be a recipe for success," he said.

"We believe that this can be solved and that's actually what the data shows when you look at what's happening around the country," Mr. DeVore Leonard said. "We're nervous that what's happening is that the legislature and the governor are essentially ignoring what the data tells us about how to move our state. They're ignoring what the data tells us about how we should actually get fit and get strong here in Ohio."

To find the funding to make needed investments, he suggested the state repeal a controversial small business tax cut and increase income tax rates for the state's wealthiest.

Although Gov. Kasich has been a champion of eliminating personal income taxes, Mr. DeVore Leonard said a recent softening of his policy stances gives advocates hope that he could be swayed by the data in the report.

"Over the past several weeks and the last few years we've seen that the governor has shown a willingness to reconsider when the facts are just too clear to overcome," he said, citing the governor's support of Medicaid expansion and gun policy proposals.

Mr. DeVore Leonard was joined at the rollout of the report by Trina Payne, executive director of the Ross County Community Action Commission, small business owner Dan Heck, and Vincent Johns Jr. with Faith in Public Life.

Ms. Payne said she's most concerned about the rise in drug overdose deaths in Appalachia - something One Ohio Now tracked for the first time this year.

"Data shows that we must invest in our future as a state to ensure that these numbers decrease and families and communities are given resources to be successful," she said.

Lawmaker Looks To Crack Down On Theft In Office

Public officials who get caught with their hands in the cookie jar would soon face steeper penalties under recently introduced legislation.

The proposal (SB 268) sponsored by Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) would establish first- and second-degree felony offenses for theft in office.



Sen. Wilson

Under current law, theft in office of any amount is limited to a third-degree felony that carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison.

The proposal would change the law to mirror existing penalties for theft. A theft in office of between \$150,000 and \$750,000 would result in a second-degree felony charge that carries a maximum sentence of up to eight years in prison.

Sen. Wilson said the legislation came about after conversations with State Auditor Dave Yost.

"We have a different set of standards for theft when it is someone in office, and in my estimation it shouldn't be," he said in an interview.

A theft of more than \$750,000 would result in a first-degree felony charge, making the offender eligible for a maximum prison sentence of 11 years.

In addition, the measure would allow courts to include the cost of a forensic audit in a restitution order when the victim is a public entity.

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) has introduced legislation (HB 391) to include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of an economic loss for restitution purposes. It was recently amended to limit the amount of restitution to be granted for accounting or auditing costs to be reasonable and not exceed the value of the property stolen or damaged.

Sen. Wilson said he would be open to limiting the auditing costs that can be recouped, but wants to ensure that the public is made whole.

"I am open to that but my main concern is that the public not pay and the person who is audited and found guilty has to pay the costs," he said.

Sen. Wilson believes the measure will be well received in the legislature.

"I think it's so logical it will pass unanimously," he said.

Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima) is expected to introduce companion legislation in the lower chamber.

The proposal would also bar those convicted of theft in office from serving in a position of public trust.

"Theft in office is a severe crime that warrants an equally severe punishment," Auditor Yost said in a statement.

Opioid Prescriptions Fall For Fifth Straight Year, Pharmacy Board Reports

Doctors in Ohio prescribed fewer opioids in 2017, continuing an ongoing trend, according to data released Monday by the State Board of Pharmacy.

It was the fifth year in a row the number of opioid prescriptions reported to the state's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System fell.

There were 568 million opioid doses dispensed to Ohio patients in 2017, the report found, down from 631 million in 2016 and 28.4% from an all-time high of 793 million in 2012.

There were 9.3 million total prescriptions dispensed, down from 10.1 million in 2016 and down from a high of 12.6 million in 2012.

"Ohio has one of the most comprehensive and aggressive approaches in the country to tackling the opioid epidemic," Pharmacy Board Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt said in a statement. "Through improvements to OARRS, new prescribing rules and guidelines, shuttering pill mills and aggressive regulatory action against unscrupulous prescribers, the state is making considerable progress in reducing the supply of prescription opioids and other controlled substances that can be abused or diverted."

The OARRS system saw more than 88 million patient reports requested, along with an 88% decrease in the number of people engaged on doctor shopping, the board reported.

"It is widely accepted that prescription opioid abuse often progresses to the use of heroin and other illicit drugs. That is why Ohio's efforts to reduce exposure to prescription opioids are essential to combatting this public health crisis," said Tracy Plouck, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The report also found a decrease in the number of prescribers and patients receiving opioid prescriptions. The patient total dropped to just below 2 million, after topping 3 million in 2012. The number of prescribers also fell to just over 55,100, from a high of nearly 66,650 in 2012.

The number of benzodiazepines dispensed to patients also fell, dropping to 233 million solid doses from 254 million in 2016 and 297 million in 2012.

The report also tracked the number of opioid doses prescribed for acute pain, a recent point of emphasis for the state, which has limited the supply doctors can prescribe.

The number of doses for acute pain fell to just under 17 million in 2017, from a high of 31.2 million in 2012. The average prescription also fell from 8.37 days to 7.1 days.

County-level data is also available from the Board of Pharmacy.

The Ohio State Medical Association said doctors have been working to reduce the number of opioid painkillers given to patients.

"Ohio physicians for this entire decade have dedicated themselves to being part of the solution to the opioid epidemic which has gripped our state and we're seeing the positive effects of that commitment," OSMA spokesman Reggie Fields said in a statement. "Through better pain management treatment efforts and clearer state rules and guidelines, physicians are better equipped to make appropriate decisions when it is necessary to prescribe an opioid."

The OSMA pointed to its Smart Rx program, designed to educate prescribers about the safe use of opioids.

"Still, more work needs to be done to reduce the number of opioids dispensed and Ohio physicians remain committed to providing high-quality medical care that is safe and in the best interest of patients," he said.

DeWine Sues Monsanto, Crew SC Operator/Investor And MLS

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Monday announced the filing of two lawsuits - one against a multinational agrochemical company and another designed to halt the possible move of the Columbus Crew.

Filed in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court, Mr. DeWine accuses Monsanto of producing and selling polychlorinated biphenyls from 1929 to 1977 despite knowing the risk the chemical compound posed to humans.

"Ohioans deserve to enjoy their natural resources without contamination from these toxic chemicals, and we believe Monsanto should be held responsible for the damage it caused," the gubernatorial candidate said in a statement. "Our goal in taking this action is to protect Ohio, its citizens, and its natural resources."

The company did not respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit by publication time.

PCBs were used in paints, inks, caulks, sealants, lubricants, electrical equipment and carbonless copy paper, according to the lawsuit.

The chemical compound builds up in living things and contaminates the food chain. In humans, PCBs are associated with cancer, skin and eye disorders, reduced birth weight and liver damage.

The contamination has also been found in fish, soil, plants and the air, the lawsuit alleged.

Despite learning of the toxicity of the chemical in the 1930, the company continued to use the product, according to the lawsuit, which alleges Monsanto was negligent and created a public nuisance through its manufacture, distribution and sale of PCBs.

The lawsuit seeks compensation and damages to investigate and remove PCBs from the state's natural resources.

Crew Lawsuit: Mr. DeWine also filed a lawsuit against Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer to stave off the soccer club's move to Austin.

The lawsuit is based on the "the Art Modell law," which states that an Ohio professional sports team that uses a "tax-supported facility" and receives financial assistance from the state or a political subdivision cannot relocate without an agreement with the political subdivision. It also must give the political subdivision or any group of individuals who reside in the area an opportunity to buy the team.

Among the allegations in the lawsuit is that the franchise accepted \$5 million in state funds for improvements to parking facilities, the land on which its home stadium sits is exempt from property taxes and the land is leased at below-market rate.

"Loyal Crew fans in Columbus have invested their time and loyalty in this team, and they have allowed the Crew SC to capitalize from financial incentives paid for by their tax dollars. I am left with no other choice than to file this suit to ensure our laws are followed," Mr. DeWine said.

The franchise did not return a call seeking comment by publication time.

AG DeWine was joined in the lawsuit by the city of Columbus.

"Just as importantly, the team plays in a taxpayer-supported facility, and Precourt Sports Ventures and Major League Soccer have accepted financial assistance from the state of Ohio and the City of Columbus. State law provides us with this protection," Mayor Andrew Ginther said.

The lawsuit, filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, was the brainchild of Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 6, 2017)

"I am very pleased that our state's top law enforcement officer is vigorously enforcing longstanding Ohio law," he said in a statement. "The Crew SC is our team. Our town. Neither the MLS or Precourt Sports Ventures can operate above Ohio law."

Planned Updates To Give Farmers New Tool In Curbing Phosphorus Runoff

Upcoming improvements to a key tool could provide farmers with more real-time, actionable data on phosphorus runoff coming from their farms.

Called the Ohio Phosphorus Risk Index, the resource is facilitated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is soon slated for a host of upgrades that farmers and environmental groups in Ohio say will provide one more asset toward curbing phosphorous runoff.

"The idea is you'll put in real actual data and so you will get really specific information then on how to make use of that data," Ohio Farm Bureau spokesman Joe Cornely said in an interview. "And that's crucial because every farm is different - the soil type, the management practices, the type of nutrients."

The tool is aimed at assisting farmers in gauging their risk for phosphorus runoff. That runoff can degrade surface water quality and contributed to harmful algal blooms.

"Providing farmers with tools to be more efficient and environmentally conscious will help their businesses and their watershed," said Peter Bucher, water resources director for the Ohio Environmental Council. "Further identifying what works best at reducing nutrient runoff will allow more farmers to implement the appropriate practices for their property."

The new index is years in the making and is thanks to a project led by Elizabeth Dayton, a researcher in Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The project was funded through a \$1 million USDA Conservation Innovation Grant and \$1 million in matching donations from Ohio farmer groups.

"The index provides a long-term, average estimate of field-scale phosphorus loss based on farmer specific inputs," Ms. Dayton said. "It gives farmers the ability to compare crop management scenarios and evaluate changes in phosphorus runoff, allowing them to prioritize time and resources when making management decisions."

The tool also helps put Ohio's goal to reduce phosphorus levels in Lake Erie by 40% by 2025 within reach, Ms. Dayton said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 13, 2017)

"The index quantifies how voluntary changes in agricultural practices contribute to achieving target phosphorus runoff reduction goals," she added. "If you multiply that by the millions of crop acres in Ohio, the 40% reduction target appears achievable."

Mr. Cornely said solving the issue of phosphorus levels will "take a whole toolbox."

"And this is one more tool to go in that box," he said. "So when you look at this as it's employed in conjunction with other tools - some that exist, some still being in development - this is one good piece of that arsenal we need to fix the problem."

After harmful algal bloom activity in 2017 tied the third worst season on record, the United States Environmental Protection Agency is moving to reconsider whether Lake

Erie's western basin should be classified as impaired. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 22, 2018)

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has touted record spending on water quality projects in 2017, although advocates said more resources are needed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 27, 2017)

House District 83: Former Nurse, Business Leader Face Off In GOP Primary

Republican contenders for the 83rd House District seat each say they can bring a unique perspective to the General Assembly thanks to their respective expertise in the medical and business fields.

Cheryl Buckland, a member of the Ohio Republican Party's State Central and Executive Committee, and Jon Cross, CEO of the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance, are vying to succeed Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), who is running for state treasurer.

Ms. Buckland, 63, was appointed to the ORP's leadership committee in 2013 and has been elected twice since then. A self-described "non-traditional candidate," she's spent four decades working at skilled nursing facilities, teaching nursing students and operating her own extended care facility.

"We have not had a nurse in the General Assembly since 2010," Ms. Buckland said. "With all due respect, we have a lot of people making healthcare decisions without a healthcare background.... I feel I can be a voice for every healthcare discipline."

Mr. Cross, 38, has a background in commercial real estate. He's held the top job at the Hardin County chamber since 2014 and before that spent several stints dabbling in politics in Kansas, California and Texas. In addition to some northeast Ohio campaigns, he also spent a two-year span as an advance man for then-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

It's his current role, however, that he says gives him an up close look at Ohio's competitiveness with other states and places him on the front lines of drawing and keeping businesses in the Buckeye State.

"Every day as an economic development director, I'm responsible for helping to attract new businesses to our community and our region and helping existing companies with their current demands," Mr. Cross said. "So I think I bring a unique perspective to understanding what it takes to attract a business to Ohio or keep a business open and successful in Ohio."

When it comes to the forthcoming race for House speaker shaping up between Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), both candidates declined to publicly weigh in at this point.

"Right now that's my focus: the primary," Ms. Buckland said. "I know both the gentlemen and I'm happy to make a declaration of support when that's necessary."

And although he said he's met with both speaker candidates, Mr. Cross echoed that sentiment. "My philosophy has been I have to win my race first," he said.

But there are plenty of other areas in which the candidates remain at odds. Mr. Cross in particular has questioned whether his opponent shares true conservative principles.

"I'm a proud Republican who supports our president," Mr. Cross said. "I'm a strong pro-life advocate. I will do anything I can to help save and protect human life. I don't believe my opponent is."

Ms. Buckland denied any claim that she doesn't support life. Still, she said her medical background has given her the ability to emotionally detach from the issue.

"As a health professional I've been trained to put my personal feelings aside and look at what is in the best interest of the patient," Ms. Buckland said. "When we look at issues that create such an emotional response in people what I can do is come to the table and get pragmatic answers. I support life, I respect death but I'm also very pragmatic and an objective thinker."

Although she supports life in healthcare and abortion-related matters, she also questioned whether politicians have inserted themselves too far into the patient-doctor relationship.

She lists her priorities if elected as advocating for farmers, steering health policy and supporting efforts to curb the opioid epidemic - an issue she saw firsthand through the addiction of her grandson. She described herself as an "out-of-the-box thinker" who can bring a new perspective to the drug fight.

"I know what I know and what I know I know very well but I'm not an expert in everything," Ms. Buckland said. "I would like to be a voice when we look at our entitlement programs - not unlike the drug crisis - and say are we spending the right dollars in the right places?"

She and her husband sold their extended care facility in 2008, but she said the experience running a business will give her valuable insight to carry into the Statehouse. She said her world travel would also be an asset - including stays in Africa, El Salvador, Russia as well as time spent delivering Polio vaccines in Portugal.

Mr. Cross said his desire to tackle issues from the business perspective easily ties into other pressing challenges facing the state, including workforce development, educational attainment, opioid addiction and adequately funding local communities.

"My largest overarching campaign platform is to make Ohio and the 83rd District safer, stronger and open for business," he said. "How do we get better and how do we

compete and how do we make sure policies are not driving people, business, education out of the state?"

His experience across the country, he said, showed him a new perspective on where Ohio stands in business friendliness compared to other states. He wants to be a voice for businesses large and small and is a strong defender of the 2nd Amendment, he said.

"We want to make sure rural America, rural Ohio, where you have large corporations to family farms, that perspective is brought into the conversation and policy decisions," Mr. Cross said.

Ms. Buckland and her husband, Larry, have seven stepchildren, 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Among her talents, she lists flamenco and tap dancing.

Mr. Cross, when he's not eating pizza and burgers on the campaign trail, enjoys spending time with his wife, Christina, and playing sports with his two sons, ages 3 and 7.

The winner of the Republican nomination will likely face Democrat Ashley Philipp of McComb who is running unopposed in the primary.

Subscribers Note: *This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.*

Rover, OEPA Clash Over Landslides, Detected Chemical Traces

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Rover Pipeline builders continue to lock horns - this time engaging in a contentious back-and-forth over several land slips posing "serious threat to environmental resources."

The OEPA is also requesting new tests after the presence of a manufactured chemical, tetrachloroethene, was found in some drilling returns in Stark County.

The two issues are the latest battle grounds in the ongoing dispute between the two entities - which is simultaneously playing out in an ongoing court case in Stark County. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 5, 2018)

The landslide issue came to the forefront last month when Rover Pipeline LLC requested the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approve temporary workspace for it to repair 28 landslips in Ohio and West Virginia.

But the OEPA, in a subsequent missive to FERC said the company's online filing was the first notice the agency received of the situation and blasted the company for failing to adequately notify the state.

"Ohio EPA is concerned that Rover and FERC did not immediately bring to our attention what Rover now describes as 'a serious threat to sensitive environmental resources,'" OEPA wrote. "Instead of trying to work around Ohio, we again call on Rover to be forthright and provide us with information so we can ensure the environment and citizens are protected."

Rover, meanwhile, argues the state is attempting to besmirch the company in order to gain more leverage in Ohio's ongoing lawsuit. And it accuses state regulators of not fully reading the company's filings in its "haste to cast aspersions."

"Ohio EPA's letter is the latest in a string of baseless claims regarding Rover that attempt to denigrate Rover to advance its own litigation position," Rover's response reads. "Notwithstanding that Ohio EPA does not have jurisdiction in this matter, Rover, on a voluntary basis, has cooperated with Ohio EPA regarding all of its inquiries irrespective of jurisdiction, including on potential impacts from Rover's construction activities."

The OEPA has accused the company of claiming the state has no role in protecting its own environment - an idea the agency called "absurd."

The agency wrote that it "absolutely" expects "to be informed of these troubling threats" and involved in "permitting of any potential impacts to streams and wetlands."

"Moreover, where impacts have occurred, Rover needs to clearly gain our approval of actions to minimize impacts and repair the damage they have done," OEPA added.

The ongoing tiff over those land slips is just one of the conflicts the parties are engaged in. Another dispute arising in recent week centers on the presence of tetrachloroethene or PCE in some drilling fluid returns along the Tuscarawas River.

PCE is a liquid chemical that in high levels is thought to headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness and other effects and it is considered by the government as a potential carcinogen, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

The chemical levels detected in Rover returns registered below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional screening risk level for direct contact, according to the OEPA, but levels clocked in above the screening threshold of soil leaching to groundwater.

As a result, OEPA asked federal regulators to force Rover to conduct additional sampling along with a separate sampling of drilling fluid source water in an effort to pinpoint the PCE's point of origin.

"These additional samples should be taken immediately and the results submitted to our attention for further evaluation," OEPA wrote.

Rover, in turn, argues that PCE is a "prominent contaminant in the environment" and that Ohio has reported multiple instances of detections in the environment in circumstances not affiliated with the project. The company characterized the levels were "minor and non-hazardous."

"Ohio EPA has documented impacts of PCE contamination in the waters of the state and engaged in several initiatives to achieve attainment," Rover said. "Accordingly, Ohio EPA's new-found concerns are as spurious as they are disingenuous."

New Member Profile: Rep. McClain Follows In Father's Footsteps

Rep. McClain has worked in business and currently serves as director of finance and customer service for Doc Investments LLC, an online precious metals retailer. The metals retailer was designed to emphasize a low-cost retail model.

"I'm pretty experienced with the changing of what the business market looks like with online retail and some of the opportunities that go along with that," he said.

As state representative, he hopes to focus on policies that will help build small businesses.

Rep. McClain said another important focus for him is on policies that help families. Rep. McClain and his wife have been married for more than 10 years and have three children, ages 2, 4 and 8.

"I'm about Ohio families," he said. "I value the family structure greatly and what that does in setting kids up, and Ohio up, our communities up for greatness."

Promoting families can help communities deal with issues and help each other, he said.

"I want to be an advocate for families taking care of each other, being good stewards of our children and being able to foster environments where people have the resources they need to find the help that they need in their own communities and foster a culture of people helping people," he said.

Rep. McClain said he spends a lot of his time outside of work with his children and family as well as remodeling his house.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Bluffton University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Findlay.

At Bluffton, Rep. McClain was on the baseball team, playing several positions including shortstop, outfield and pitcher. One summer he traveled Europe with Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. The team played clubs in France, Germany and the Czech Republic, while also doing ministry activities with children and at camps.

"It was almost a barnstorming tour to spread baseball in Europe," he said.

Although he's familiar with the work of the House after seeing his father's experience, Rep. McClain said he hopes to prove himself and find ways to contribute, he said.

"The hat's on my head now and I'm moving forward to do everything I can to be responsive," he said.

Politics Notebook: Buckeye Institute Highlights Capital Budget 'Pork'; Taylor Picks Up Endorsement; Schiavoni Releases New Ad; Balderson Touts War Chest

The Buckeye Institute on Monday unveiled its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018.

All told, the projects highlighted by the Buckeye Institute total more than \$18 million, according to the report.

Among the projects singled out is \$4 million for a Major League Soccer stadium in Cincinnati, \$2.5 million to expand the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and \$5 million for the COSI Connection Corridor.

"If these, and other pork projects in the budget, were funded using local or private dollars, as they should be, Ohio could have at least \$85 million more that it could spend on pressing state priorities, save, or better yet, return to taxpayers," Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at Institute, said in a statement.

Mr. Lawson also lamented the lack of funding for strengthening the state's physical and democratic infrastructure.

"Policymakers should do more to heed our call to focus the capital budget on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure and move away from projects of predominately local interest," he said. "Simply put, it is hard to see how it benefits someone in Youngstown for Cincinnati to get a soccer stadium or how people in Cleveland benefit from renovations to COSI."

Taylor Endorsement: Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor on Monday picked up an endorsement in her gubernatorial bid in the form of U.S. Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.).

In announcing his endorsement, Mr. Daines said he has known Ms. Taylor's running mate, Nathan Estruth, for many years.

"Lt. Governor Mary Taylor is a conservative who has and will continue to challenge the status quo establishment in Ohio. It is important to elect leaders in states across the country - and especially in the swing state of Ohio - who will fight for a bold conservative agenda alongside the people's representatives in Washington," he said in a statement.

"We need more private sector experience and principled conservatives to tame the over-reach of government at the federal and state levels, and the Mary Taylor/Nathan Estruth ticket are the only ones in either party who bring that for the people of Ohio."

Added Ms. Taylor in a statement: "Senator Daines' support today and over the next 68 days adds to our growing momentum as conservatives across Ohio and the country rally around my campaign as the true conservative in this race."

New Ad: Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) is out with a new ad in which he highlights his desire to create opportunities for future generations.

The 30-second spot, "For Them," features Sen. Schiavoni's family, including his two children.

"As a parent, everything you do is for them. The simple lessons, the big decisions, you want them to succeed," he says in the ad. "But you worry - what opportunities will be there for them?"

Balderson Warchest: The congressional campaign of Sen. Troy Balderson on Monday announced that it has raised \$300,000 in the eight weeks since the Zanesville Republican officially entered the race.

"This campaign has had non-stop momentum since day one, and I could not be more grateful to the many contributors of this effort," he said in a statement. "So many people from my Senate District and throughout Central Ohio have asked to be a part of our campaign because they know that my conservative record makes me the best candidate to help fix a broken Washington."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, March 15

Criminal Sentencing Commission, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, March 6

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m.,
(Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for McColley)

Wednesday, March 7

Ohioans to Stop Execution news conference on clemency hearing, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 12

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Queen City Club, 331 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, 5 p.m., (Host: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Supporter: \$1,000 | Attendee: \$500 to Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Tuesday, March 13

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) & Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) fundraiser, Pins Mechanical Co., 6558 Riverside Drive, Dublin, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze and/or Citizens for Duffey)

Wednesday, March 14

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Friends of Bill Coley)

Tuesday, March 20

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) & Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Hackett for Ohio and/or Friends of Lou Terhar)

Wednesday, March 21

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Crystal, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

Tuesday, April 10

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Buckeye Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Wednesday, April 11

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) & Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Peterson for Good Government and/or Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Tuesday, April 17

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Wednesday, April 18

Ohio University State Government Alumni Luncheon, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Social: 11:30 am; Luncheon: 12 pm)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) & Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Hottinger and/or Friends of Matt Dolan)

Tuesday, April 24

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)
Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2018, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Westerville ready to host Gov. John Kasich's final State of the State

= 9

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

= 9 [View in Browser](#)

= 9

.

= 9

 cleveland.com

= 9

= A

= 9

Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

Capitol Letter's 2018 State of the State Bingo

Arnold Schwarzenegger	Tell kids not to do drugs	JobsOhio	"89 cents in the rainy-day fund"	"McKees Rocks"
Name-drops musician	"Look"	"God-given potential"	Book/article recommendation	Goes on off-script tangent
Medicaid expansion	"Live a life a little bit bigger than ourselves"		Ohio Turnpike	Shout-out to a Democrat
"Live in the shadows"	References The Hobbit	Standing ovation for Karen Kasich	Self-driving cars	"Folks"
"Two paths"	"The Lord"	Guns	"Son of a mailman"	Mentions Mary Taylor by name

Print out your own bingo sheet for Gov. John Kasich's final State of the State address Tuesday night in Westerville.

= 9

= 9

= 9

Rotunda Rumblings

= 9

Kasich and the rest in Westerville: A handful of state government events are planned for Gov. John Kasich's hometown Tuesday morning and afternoon, ahead of the Republican's final State of the State address.

Those include a press conference by the insurance industry and Department of Insurance to talk about the need for qualified people to work in the business, and progress made in recent years in recruiting talent. Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor is expected to speak at 3 p.m. at the Small Business Advisory Council's six-hour meeting, and the Department of Natural Resources has two events planned in Delaware County.

= 9 **#SueTheCrew:** Ohio Attorney General DeWine, who is running for gov as a Republican, and the city of Columbus on Monday sued the owner of the Columbus Crew and Major League Soccer, to **#SaveTheCrew**, which has benefited from tax investment, according to a news release from DeWine's office. Owner Anthony Precourt would like a downtown soccer stadium and since the city and state haven't provided one, he's trying to move the franchise to Austin, Texas.

= 9 **DeWine sues Monsanto:** DeWine also sued Monsanto Co. in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court Monday for producing and selling a toxic chemical associated with cancer, skin and eye disorders, reduced birth weight, liver damage and other health problems, his office announced. DeWine alleges the company sold PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, from 1929 to 1977, despite knowing in the 1930s they were toxic to humans.

= 9

Serving up pork? The Buckeye Institute announced a Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018, which total more than \$18 million in spending, much of which it described as pork. The largest offense to the conservative think tank is the proposed \$5 million for the COSI Connection Corridor, a passageway for the Columbus science museum that's going to have retail and restaurant space.

= 9 **Snare Daines:** Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor picked up a gubernatorial endorsement Monday from Republican U.S. Sen. Steve Daines of Montana. If you're wondering why a Montana senator is weighing in on the Ohio governor= 2s race, it's because Daines and Nathan Estruth, Taylor's running mate, worked together at Procter and Gamble and are both involved with the anti-abortion group the Susan B. Anthony List.

= 9

= 9 **Stories We're Talking About**

= 9

This is the end: Gov. John Kasich gives his final State of the State address tonight. Cleveland.com's Seth Richardson looked at what to expect from the speech.

= 9 **Everything's fine:** NRA spokeswoman Jennifer Baker pushed back on former Attorney General Marc Dann's column in cleveland.com about being bought by the gun industry, according to the Associated Press. Baker called it a "desperate attention-seeking ploy by a has-been politician."

= 9

NRain't worth it: The good news is Richard Cordray made the progressive magazine Mother Jones. The bad news is it's because of his past love affair with the NRA. The magazine picked up a video from 2010 (sent out by primary rival Dennis Kucinich) of Cordray saying gun ownership is a God-given right and analyzed why that might not be a good thing for Cordray's 2018 chances.

= 9 **Impressed in the Midwest:** Democratic U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan last month led a group of Silicon Valley venture capitalists on a tour of the industrial Midwest (including Akron and Youngstown) – and as the New York Times' Kevin Roose writes, "By the end of the tour, the coastal elites had caught the heartland bug." Among those joining the tour: memoirist J.D. Vance, "who now seems to magically appear every time the words 'Midwest' and 'manufacturing' are spoken aloud."

= 9 **We've got the ticket:** As we told you in Monday's edition, the Statehouse is considering a bill that would help defray some of the costs of holding large events like the NFL Draft. Capitol Letter's Jeremy Pelzer has more details.

= 9

The sus-Pence! Vice President Mike Pence is coming to Cleveland on Friday to tout the GOP tax plan, according to cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton. Also at the roundtable - hosted by a Donald Trump super PAC - will be U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci, the White House's chosen candidate for the U.S. Senate race.

= 9 **Balderson makes it rain:** GOP State Sen. Troy Balderson is raising a

ton of money in the race to replace Pat Tiberi in Congress, according to Jessica Wehrman of the Columbus Dispatch. Balderson said he was "humbled" by the generosity of the people who've given him \$300,000.

= 9 **Back in my day:** The Ohio legislature is considering a bill that would increase the amount of time teenagers have their learner's permit from 6 months to 12 months, according to Laura Bischoff of the Dayton Daily News.

= 9 **Five Questions**

= 9

Kristine King Robbins is chief of staff in the president's office at Otterbein University in Westerville. She's been the university's representative to various state agencies coordinating Gov. John Kasich's final State of the State address, when 1,100 legislators, press and members of the public will fill the Fritzsche Theatre on Tuesday night.

= 9 *1. Have you handled a request to use your facilities that has been this large before?*

= 9 "We've had various candidates ask to speak on campus in the past and have hosted them here. But for us this is probably one of the most historic and biggest events we'll host here on campus because Gov. Kasich is from Westerville. And we consider him part of our community."

= 9 *2. Westerville has been grieving over the deaths of city police officers Eric Joering and Anthony Morelli, who were shot while on a call. Is the community prepared to shift gears to host this event?*

= 9 "I grew up in Westerville and my family moved here back in 1967 so I've been in and around the community for years, and I've never been so proud at how our community has come together – from city leaders and local legislators, state officials and neighbors. ... I think that the country has seen the response of the Westerville community. I think this will give us another opportunity to come together to honor our General Assembly and to honor our governor."

= 9 *3. How are you handling security?*

= 9 "We have our own police department, and we work very closely with the city of Westerville. And the state highway patrol is certainly in charge of security at this event."

= 9 4. *Otterbein students are on spring break this week. But will any students to be involved in the State of the State?*

= 9

"We do have a couple of staff in our theater department who have been working closely with the governor's office in making the specific arrangements for the stage and lighting and the sound, and they give opportunities for students to help out behind the scenes... They'll be helping as stage hands and be there in backup if there are needs in terms of technology and lighting and sound."

= 9

5. *Will there be opportunities for students who are hanging out on campus to watch?*

= 9 "We're hosting -- along with the city and the chamber and the Westerville Library and Westerville Schools -- a reception for the General Assembly that evening before the address. And along with that for guests who come (to campus) who don't have tickets, there will be a watch party in the Campus Center, which is our student union."

= 9 **What's Going On**

= 9

8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. – PUCO to kick off PowerForward initiative: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is set to begin a six-day "Ratemaking and Regulation" seminar with panel discussions and presentations on the future of Ohio's electric distribution system. *11th floor, 180 E. Broad St.*

= 9 **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Education groups to hold legislative conference:** The Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Ohio School Boards Association, Ohio Association of School Business Officials are hosting the event. *Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square, 75 E. State St.*

= 9

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. -- Insurance industry update with Ohio Department of Insurance. *Westerville Public Library, Meeting Room A,*

126 S. State St. Westerville.

= 9 **10 a.m. – House Finance Committee:** The panel may vote on the capital budget (House Bill 529), as well as legislation to create an “OhioCorps” program (House Bill 508) and set up a \$100 million broadband grant program (House Bill 378). *Room 313, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **10 to 11:30 a.m. – Panel discussion on textbook affordability:** OhioLINK and the Ohio Department of Higher Education are hosting the event. *Towers Hall, Otterbein University, 1 S. Grove St., Westerville.*

= 9

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Small Business Advisory Council. *Women’s Small Business Accelerator? 9s ThinkSpace, 24 Westerview Dr., Westerville.*

= 9

10:30 a.m. – State officials to tout Ohio’s mineral resources: Department of Natural Resources Director Jim Zehringer, Ohio Department of Transportation Director Jerry Wray and JobsOhio Senior Adviser David Mustine are scheduled to highlight Ohio’s underground natural resources. *Horace R. Collins Lab, 3307 South Old State Rd., Delaware.*

= 9 **11 a.m. – Rich Cordray’s campaign to hold pre-debate press call:** Campaign Manager Michael Halle and other officials with the Democratic gubernatorial candidate’s campaign have scheduled a conference call with reporters.

= 9

Noon – Zack Space to speak at Akron Press Club: Tickets for the event with the Democratic candidate for state auditor are \$20 for club members, \$25 for non-members, and \$160 for a table of 8. *The Tangier, 532 W. Market St., Akron.*

= 9

1 to 3:30 p.m. – Governor’s Executive Workforce Board. *The Electrical Trades Center, 947 Goodale Blvd.*

= 9 **2:30 p.m. – Otterbein University to receive Tree City USA designation.** *Otterbein University Campus Center, 100 Home St., Westerville.*

= 9

7 p.m. – Gov. John Kasich’s State of the State address. *Fritsche*

Theatre, Otterbein University, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville.

= 9

= 9 **Straight From The Source**

= 9

"I have made a lot of promises that I will not go into labor until after the #OHSOTS. This should be fun...."

= 9 - Hayley Call-Carducci, who handles social media for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, tweeting on Feb. 28. As of Monday, at least, she was making good on her promise not to deliver her baby until after Gov. John Kasich's State of the State address Tuesday night.

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= A

= A

One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at Capitolletter@cleveland.com.

= 9

= 9

= 9 = 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9 To ensure receipt of our emails, please add

cleveland.com_newsletters@update.cleveland.com to your address book or safe sender list.

You received this email because you opted-in to the newsletter. Was it forwarded to you? [Sign](#)

[up now!](#)

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9 [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [CONTACT US](#)

= 9

= 9

= A

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 10:32 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Capital budget TPs

1. Overwhelmingly, funding goes toward statewide projects/state-owned buildings. Only about 5% is used for local community projects.
2. As the Speaker has said repeatedly, the goal is to help fund projects that will likely have a strong return on investment, which in the long run can bring more dollars to the communities and, by extension, the state.
4. Under Republican leadership over the past seven years, the legislature and governor have cut taxes for Ohioans by more than \$5 billion, which is a primary tenet of the Buckeye Institute. So fiscal responsibility and giving more money to taxpayers has always been, and continues to be, a leading mission of the legislature.

Sent from my iPad

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 10:52 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's 2018 Capital Budget Riddled with Too Many Special Interest Requests

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's 2018 Capital Budget Riddled with Too Many Special Interest Requests

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio Finance Committee on House Bill 529

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio House Finance Committee on House Bill 529, Ohio's 2018 capital budget.

In opening his testimony, Lawson recognized that in many ways Ohio's capital budget adheres to Buckeye's spending principles, which were outlined in ***Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans***. The report "encouraged policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructures."

Although policymakers have allocated money to strengthen Ohio's democratic infrastructure in separate legislation, Lawson noted "the capital budget was not then reduced to maintain spending balance-and it should have been."

Of the capital budget overall, Lawson expressed concern "that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure."

In highlighting the special interest projects, Lawson drew special attention to the 10 that made Buckeye's **Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018**, saying, "We highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader statewide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers."

Lawson went on to say, "Ultimately, of course, local residents and local taxpayers should have every opportunity to voluntarily choose to fund amphitheaters, performance stages, parks, zoos, and even stadiums out of their own local resources. But Cleveland residents should not be compelled-through state taxes-to pay for the Columbus Zoo, nor should Youngstown residents be made to pay for a soccer venue in Cincinnati."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 529
Before the Ohio House Finance Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 6, 2018**

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Ryan, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Capital Budget.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus that advocates for low-tax, low-regulation policies that remove barriers to prosperity for Ohioans.

On February 5, The Buckeye Institute released its report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, which outlined ways to keep Ohio's capital budget focused on principled government spending.[1] Our report encouraged policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructures.

In many ways, Ohio's \$2.62 billion budget adheres to these basic principles, but we are concerned that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure.

The Buckeye Institute has just released its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018,[2] in which we highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader state-wide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers.

Regrettably, examples of non-essential government spending abound. The \$5 million to build retail and restaurant space at COSI in Columbus-not essential government spending. The \$1 million for orangutan and elephant exhibits at the Columbus Zoo-already subsidized by Franklin County property owners-not essential government spending. The \$800,000 to install splash pads around the state-not essential government spending. And the \$4 million slated for a soccer stadium in Cincinnati-not essential government spending and not likely to live up to the economic hype. As the St. Louis Federal Reserve concluded last year:

Consumers who spend money on sporting events would likely spend the money on other forms of entertainment, which has a similar economic impact. Rather than subsidizing sports stadiums, governments could finance other projects such as infrastructure or education that have the potential to increase productivity and promote economic growth.[3]

Ultimately, of course, local residents and local taxpayers should have every opportunity to voluntarily choose to fund amphitheaters, performance stages, parks, zoos, and even stadiums out of their own local resources. But Cleveland residents should not be

compelled-through state taxes-to pay for the Columbus Zoo, nor should Youngstown residents be made to pay for a soccer venue in Cincinnati.

Then there is the \$400,000 appropriation to build several government-owned broadband networks across the state. As I outlined recently in *Broadband "GON" Wrong*,^[4] private-sector players have already deployed billions of dollars developing state-of-the-art technology to nimbly respond to consumer demands and preferences, while these government-owned networks have proven unable to pay for themselves, leaving taxpayers to pay for networks that few consumers even want to use.

That communities are asking for state money in the capital budget indicates that these networks all too frequently fail to live up to the promises made by government officials, and often lead to further taxpayer subsidies to maintain operations.

Many of the other local projects are not inherently misguided, but insofar as they provide only narrow local benefits and do not strengthen Ohio's physical infrastructure, state policymakers should remove them from the capital budget. Those funds should instead be spent on Ohio's pressing needs, such as building and maintaining water and sewer systems, and state roads.

We are also disappointed that this capital budget will not strengthen the state's democratic infrastructure, including, for example, replacing Ohio's aging voting machines. Such funding appears allocated in separate legislation, but the capital budget was not then reduced to maintain spending balance-and it should have been.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, policymakers must remember that a lack of fiscal restraint, even during good economic times, unwittingly creates unrealistic spending expectations over time. Using the capital budget to fund local projects rather than state priorities will only make it harder for policymakers to curb and manage state spending when tough economic times inevitably arrive.

Today, even as the state budget looks solidly in the black, the danger of recession and fiscal instability still lurks. Recall, for instance, how unforeseen challenges required immediate and multiple adjustments to the last biennial budget due to lower than expected revenues. Prudence cautions against the tempting but non-essential government spending included in this capital budget. For the sake of Ohio taxpayers, such temptation must be resisted.

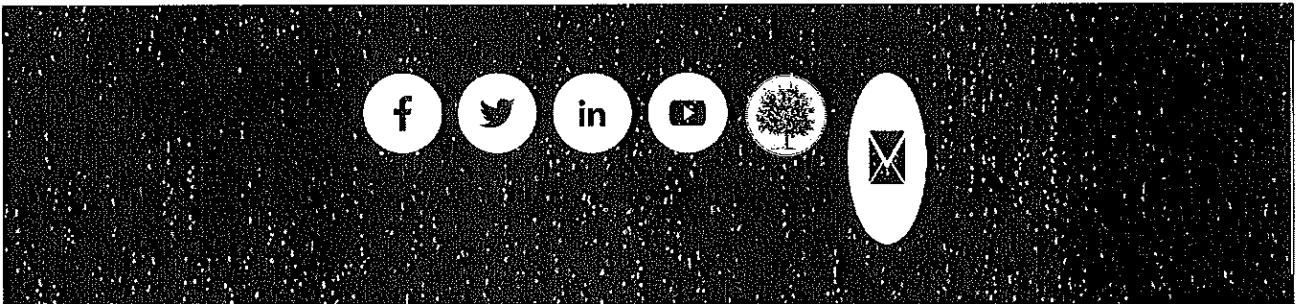
Thank you and I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

-
- [1] Greg R. Lawson and Quinn Beeson, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, The Buckeye Institute, February 5, 2018.
- [2] **More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests**, The Buckeye Institute press release, March 5, 2018.
- [3] Scott A. Wolla, *The Economics of Subsidizing Sports Stadiums*, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, May 2017.
- [4] Greg R. Lawson, *Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks are Bad for Taxpayers*, The Buckeye Institute, February 14, 2018.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 12:42 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Constitution is a Foundational Document, Not a List of Policy Choices

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Constitution is a Foundational Document, Not a List of Policy Choices

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 506

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 506.

In his testimony, Lawson drew attention to a growing problem in Ohio -- special interests pursuing constitutional amendment referendums in order to circumvent the legislature or force the legislature to consider legislation that they might not otherwise take up. In this instance, House Bill 506, which was introduced to head off a referendum governing high volume dog breeders.

Of this practice Lawson said, "Bills like this one [House Bill 506] have lately percolated through the General Assembly as strategic alternatives to political maneuvers orchestrated by well-funded special interests that would otherwise seek to amend the Ohio Constitution and encumber our most fundamental governing document with countless rules and regulations."

Noting that Ohio's Constitution is a "foundational document" Lawson said of this strategy by special interests "The...strategy is clever and remarkably effective, but it must be resisted. The General Assembly must not be muscled by special interest groups threatening unnecessary amendments to the state constitution unless their legislative demands are met. Such threats aim a dagger at the heart of our constitutional form of self-government."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 506
Before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 7, 2018**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 506 and the Ohio Constitution.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus that advocates for low-tax, low-regulation policies that remove barriers to prosperity for Ohioans.

House Bill 506 would codify new rules for dog breeders. Fair enough. However, I am not here today to testify about dog breeders or their rules. I am here instead because House Bill 506 is before this Committee as part of a troubling new breed of preemptive legislation, a trend propounded by various special interest groups -- in this case, dog breeders -- designed to force constitutional amendments or preemptive laws that the legislature might not otherwise take up. The sponsor of House Bill 506 acknowledged as much several weeks ago.

Dog breeders and the merits of this particular legislation aside, bills like this one have lately percolated through the General Assembly as strategic alternatives to political maneuvers orchestrated by well-funded special interests that would otherwise seek to amend the Ohio Constitution and encumber our most fundamental governing document with countless rules and regulations. Thus, in this instance, House Bill 506 comes before the Committee so that Ohio's Constitution will not include an amendment for dog breeders.

The special interests' strategy is clever and remarkably effective, but it must be resisted. The General Assembly must not be muscled by special interest groups threatening unnecessary amendments to the state constitution unless their legislative demands are met. Such threats aim a dagger at the heart of our constitutional form of self-government.

The special interests argue that their strong-arm tactics -- such as paying constituents for their signatures to put constitutional amendments on the ballot -- are necessary in order to compel the General Assembly to act in the interest of the people. The asserted ends sound laudable, but the means are not.

First, beneath the altruistic rhetoric claiming to defend the "will of the people" lies the more self-serving purpose of simply bending the law -- by preemptive statute like House Bill 506 or constitutional amendment, they do not care which -- to protect their own special interest.

Second, as the cornerstone of our self-rule, the Ohio Constitution frames the very structure of our state government, and that structure will not stand under the constant pressures of change and amendment. Constitutional amendments therefore ought to be rare events and taken up only for the most significant purposes, not as a more permanent alternative to the Revised or Administrative codes. The state constitution is a foundational document, not a list of policy choices or a rule book for dog breeders.

If, as the special interests claim, the General Assembly fails to accomplish or defend the will of the people, our political system provides a remedy to hold the assembly accountable -- elections. One hardly need remind this Committee that legislators who do not listen to their constituents and who do not pursue policies and legislation consistent with their constituents' concerns can and should be voted from office. Thus, statutes and elections are and ought to be the people's recourse -- not the bombastic threats of constitutional amendments or else.

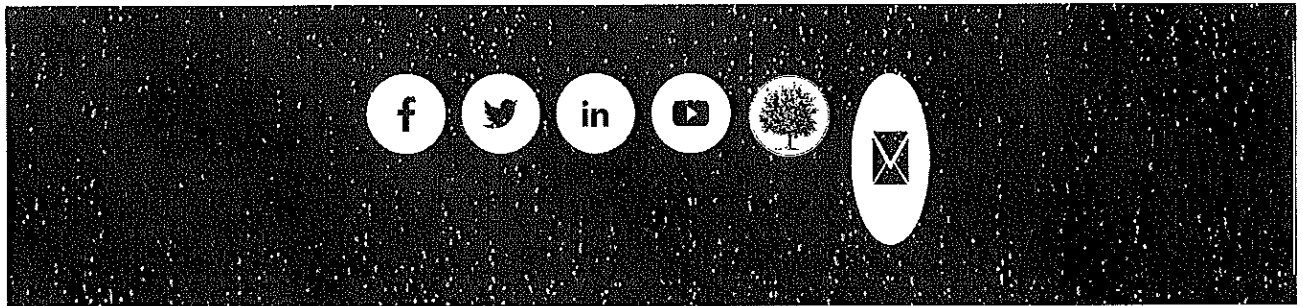
Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee might have at this time.

= A

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe= 2 carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:2%20carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Finlay, Serena
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 1:57 PM
To: Paretti, Dominic
Subject: Deadline Tomorrow: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS TOMORROW AT 4PM



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

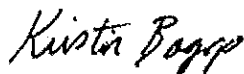
An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09



Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 1:20 PM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Employment Rate Springs Ahead, While Unemployment Still Above National Average

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Employment Rate Springs Ahead, While Unemployment Still Above National Average

Columbus, OH -- Andrew J. Kidd, Ph.D., an economist at the **Economic Research Center (ERC)** at **The Buckeye Institute**; and Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the ERC and vice president of policy at Buckeye, commented on newly released employment data from the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**.

"Ohio's unemployment rate declined from 4.9 percent in December to 4.7 percent in January, continuing a positive economic path for Ohio's labor market. However, Ohio's unemployment rate still remains well above the national average of 4.1 percent, indicating there are still obstacles that policymakers need to address to make Ohio a national leader.

"Also concerning is that Ohio's unemployment rate declined due partially to fewer Ohioans being in the job market as labor force participation dipped below the national average. This signifies some job seekers may have become discouraged and stopped searching for employment.

"Ohio experienced an 8,900 increase in non-farm private employment in January 2018, nearly five times the growth from December 2017 and accounting for more than a third of the number of new jobs since January 2017. Although this is only one month with such large gains, this is an indication that Ohio's labor market is strengthening and expanding.

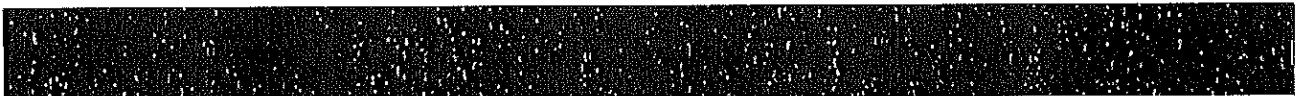
"Much of this job growth was in construction, which saw an increase of 2,600 jobs. This bodes well for the industry, which had seen declines in the latter part of 2017, and could be indicative of further development and economic growth. Mining and logging also continued to rebound after years of struggle, growing by 5.5 percent in 2017.

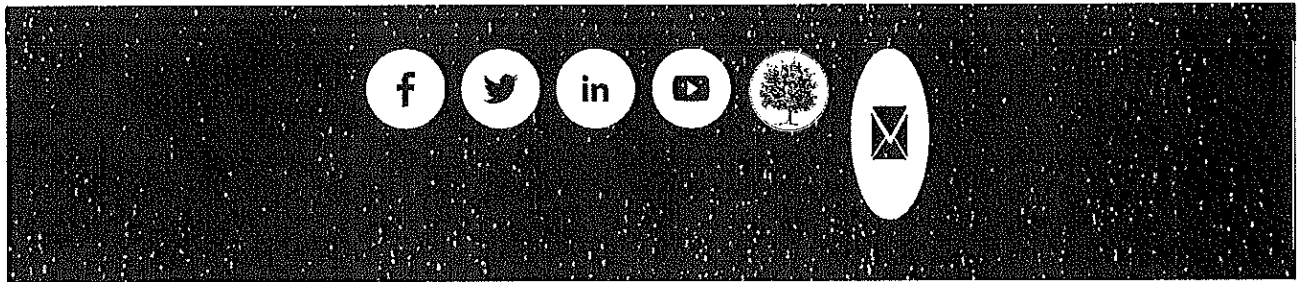
"Overall, Ohio's labor market continues to trend in the right direction but discouraged workers and decreases in lower-skilled jobs such as manufacturing (-1,400), and leisure and hospitality (-1,700), show there needs to be fewer barriers that prevent people who are seeking to improve their skills through training and licensing from attaining the jobs they desire."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.





The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe= 2 carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 4:18 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Riddled with Pork Projects that Benefit Only Narrow Local Interests



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

**The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Riddled with
Pork Projects that Benefit Only Narrow Local Interests**
Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio Senate Committee on House Bill 529

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee on House Bill 529, Ohio's 2018 capital budget.

As he did in his testimony before the Ohio House Finance Committee, Lawson recognized that in many ways the 2018 capital budget adheres to the spending principles outlined in *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*. However, he went on to say, "We are concerned that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure."

In highlighting the special interest projects, Lawson again drew special attention to the 10 that made Buckeye's **Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018**, saying, "We highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader statewide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 529
Before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 13, 2018**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Capital Budget.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

On February 5, The Buckeye Institute released its report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, which outlined ways to keep Ohio's capital budget focused on principled government spending.[1] Our report encouraged policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus on strengthening Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructures.

In many ways, Ohio's \$2.62 billion budget adheres to these basic principles, but we are concerned that this budget, like others before, remains riddled with too many special interest requests, local projects, and some potential boondoggles that veer from providing core government services and infrastructure.

The Buckeye Institute has just released its Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018,[2] in which we highlight more than \$18 million of taxpayer dollars spent on pork projects that benefit only narrow local interests and not broader state-wide needs. And that \$18 million is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. All of the special interest projects combined pushes that total to at least \$85 million. That is at least \$85 million of pork that could be spent on more pressing priorities, saved, or returned to taxpayers.

Regrettably, examples of non-essential government spending abound. The \$5 million to build retail and restaurant space at COSI in Columbus -- not essential government spending. The \$1 million for orangutan and elephant exhibits at the Columbus Zoo -- already subsidized by Franklin County property owners -- not essential government

spending. The \$800,000 to install splash pads around the state -- not essential government spending. And the \$4 million slated for a soccer stadium in Cincinnati -- not essential government spending and not likely to live up to the economic hype. As the St. Louis Federal Reserve concluded last year:

Consumers who spend money on sporting events would likely spend the money on other forms of entertainment, which has a similar economic impact. Rather than subsidizing sports stadiums, governments could finance other projects such as infrastructure or education that have the potential to increase productivity and promote economic growth.[3]

Ultimately, of course, local residents and local taxpayers should have every opportunity to voluntarily choose to fund amphitheaters, performance stages, parks, zoos, and even stadiums out of their own local resources. But Cleveland residents should not be compelled -- through state taxes -- to pay for the Columbus Zoo, nor should Youngstown residents be made to pay for a soccer venue in Cincinnati.

Then there is the \$400,000 appropriation to build several government-owned broadband networks across the state. As I outlined recently in *Broadband "GON" Wrong*,[4] private-sector players have already deployed billions of dollars developing state-of-the-art technology to nimbly respond to consumer demands and preferences, while these government-owned networks have proven unable to pay for themselves, leaving taxpayers to pay for networks that few consumers even want to use.

That communities are asking for state money in the capital budget indicates that these networks all too frequently fail to live up to the promises made by government officials, and often lead to further taxpayer subsidies to maintain operations.

Many of the other local projects are not inherently misguided, but insofar as they provide only narrow local benefits and do not strengthen Ohio's physical infrastructure, state policymakers should remove them from the capital budget. Those funds should instead be spent on Ohio's pressing needs, such as building and maintaining water and sewer systems, and state roads.

We are also disappointed that this capital budget will not strengthen the state's democratic infrastructure, including, for example, replacing Ohio's aging voting machines. Such funding appears allocated in separate legislation, but the capital budget was not then reduced to maintain spending balance -- and it should have been.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, policymakers must remember that a lack of fiscal restraint, even during good economic times, unwittingly creates unrealistic spending expectations over time. Using the capital budget to fund local projects rather than state priorities will only make it harder for policymakers to curb and manage state spending when tough economic times inevitably arrive.

Today, even as the state budget looks solidly in the black, the danger of recession and fiscal instability still lurks. Recall, for instance, how unforeseen challenges required immediate and multiple adjustments to the last biennial budget due to lower than expected revenues. Prudence cautions against the tempting but non-essential government spending included in this capital budget. For the sake of Ohio taxpayers, such temptation must be resisted.

Thank you and I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

[1] Greg R. Lawson and Quinn Beeson, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, The Buckeye Institute, February 5, 2018.

[2] *More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests*, The Buckeye Institute press release, March 5, 2018.

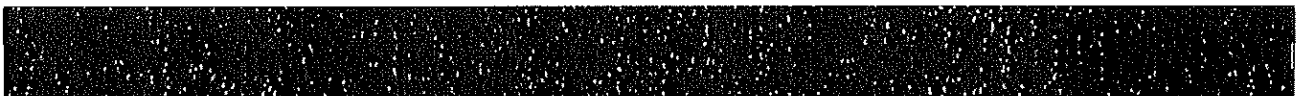
[3] Scott A. Wolla, *The Economics of Subsidizing Sports Stadiums*, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, May 2017.

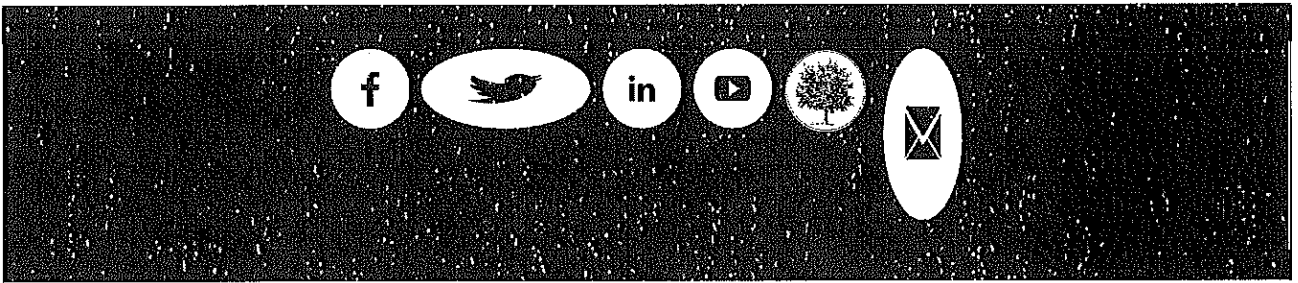
[4] Greg R. Lawson, *Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks are Bad for Taxpayers*, The Buckeye Institute, February 14, 2018.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.





The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 10:19 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: "Sue and Settle" Circumvents Constitutional Role of the Peoples' Elected Representatives to Make Policy

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: "Sue and Settle" Circumvents Constitutional Role of the Peoples' Elected Representatives to Make Policy

*Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio House Government
Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 301*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on House Bill 301.

In opening his testimony, Lawson noted that the practice of "sue and settle" is a "pernicious but all-too-common practice" that "circumvent[s] the constitutional prerogative of the General Assembly to make policy."

Lawson urged the General Assembly to end this practice and reassert its rightful policy role by "requiring the [General] Assembly's approval for any consent decree or court-approved settlement to which the state is a party that modifies or prevents a statute's implementation.

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 301
Before the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 14, 2018**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 301.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

House Bill 301 takes a significant stride toward correcting the pernicious but all-too-common practice known as "sue and settle." Special interests pursue a "sue and settle" scheme by filing a lawsuit against the state challenging state laws, regulations, or policies in the hope of reaching a favorable court-ordered settlement that effectively frustrate the state's policy objective.

Ultimately, of course, "sue and settle" lawsuits circumvent the constitutional prerogative of the General Assembly to make policy.

The troubling "sue and settle" strategy has become so widespread at the state and federal levels that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has called such special interest lawsuits what they really are: "regulating behind closed doors." [1]

Indeed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has acknowledged the problem of backroom "regulation through litigation," and has recently amended the process by which the EPA will agree to consent decrees. [2]

The Buckeye Institute is pleased that Ohio appears ready to take similar, reasonable steps with Representative Butler's House Bill 301 to curb backroom settlements that often muddy regulatory waters that should be clear and transparent.

In our view, House Bill 301 reasserts the General Assembly's rightful policy role by requiring the Assembly's approval for any consent decree or court-approved settlement to which the state is a party that modifies or prevents a statute's implementation. With such a requirement, House Bill 301 will return power to Ohio's electorate by restoring transparency to a legislative and regulatory process that has been strategically hijacked by special interests and their lawyers.

We applaud this effort as sound regulatory policy, and we encourage the General Assembly to end the unsettling practice of "sue and settle" litigation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

[1] U.S. Chamber of Commerce, **Sue and Settle: Regulating Behind Closed Doors**, March 6, 2018.

[2] Administrator Pruitt Issues Directive to End EPA "Sue & Settle" United States Environmental Protection Agency press release, October 16, 2017.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 4:21 PM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Sales Tax Holidays are More Gimmick, Less Reform

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Sales Tax Holidays are More Gimmick, Less Reform

*Greg Lawson Submits Testimony to the Ohio House Ways
and Means Committee on Senate Bill 226*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson submitted written testimony today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) to the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee on Senate Bill 226.

= A

In opening his testimony, Lawson outlined the downsides of special interest tax deductions, which narrow the tax base, raise taxes, and offer preferential treatment to special interests.

Pointing to a **report by the non-partisan Tax Foundation**, Lawson went on to say of sales tax holidays, they "represent more of a gimmick than fundamental reform."

Lawson also noted that the Tax Foundation report questioned how much of a savings sales tax holidays offered consumers, highlighting that retailers may raise prices to capture a portion of the tax savings. "This practice alone would suggest that consumers would benefit more from a flatter tax without special exemptions rather than a one-time-a-year sales tax break."

After the bill passed out of committee Lawson said, "Though the legislation did clear the committee and seems poised for passage, it remains critical to examine all such tax expenditures to avoid reducing the overall competitiveness of our full tax code."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 226
to the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 14, 2018**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 226 and Ohio's tax policy.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, a tax expenditure is any tax policy that has the following four characteristics:[1]

- The item reduces, or has the potential to reduce, one of the state's General Revenue Fund taxes;
- The item would have been part of the defined base;
- The item is not subject to an alternative tax; and
- The item is subject to change by state legislative action.

The Buckeye Institute has long opposed most tax expenditures, including credits and exemptions, because of their adverse impacts on taxpayers and the level playing field on which a free market depends.

As exceptions to the tax code, tax expenditures effectively narrow the tax base. The narrower the tax base the higher and more confiscatory taxes become for those still subject to the tax. Thus, tax expenditures, however unintentionally or well-intended, eventually pick economic winners and losers through their preferential treatment under the law.

Flatter taxes, by contrast, levied on broader bases and without special exemptions, lower the tax burden and spread the cost of the tax more evenly and fairly among taxpayers.

Sales tax holidays, in particular, represent more of a gimmick than fundamental reform. As the non-partisan Tax Foundation points out, rather than moving Ohio to a flatter tax, sales tax holidays introduce complexity and instability to sales tax collections.[2]

Additionally, there is uncertainty as to how large of a savings sales tax holidays offer the consumer with some research showing that retailers may raise prices to capture a portion of the tax savings that are anticipated by consumers.[3] This practice alone would suggest that consumers would benefit more from a flatter tax without special exemptions rather than a one-time-a-year sales tax break.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Committee.

[1] State of Ohio, **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Tax Expenditure Report**, Office of Budget and Management, November 25, 2016.

[2] Joseph Bishop-Henchman and Scott Drenkard, *Sales Tax Holidays: Politically Expedient but Poor Tax Policy, 2017*, Tax Foundation, July 25, 2017.

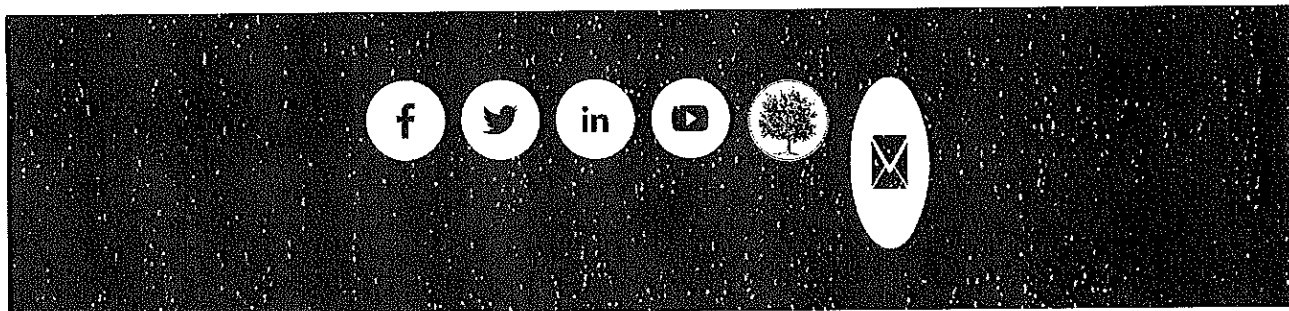
[3] *Ibid.*

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual

liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



— A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

SafeUnsubscribe= 2 carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov

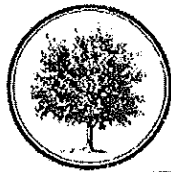
Forward this email | Update Profile | About our service provider

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:03 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: REMINDER: AEI President Arthur Brooks to Address The Buckeye Institute Luncheon March 21

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

You may have seen our invitation for this event previously. If so, consider this to be a reminder. If not, consider yourself formally invited, and see the details below. We'd love to have you with us.

Update: We added another table to the room for our luncheon with **Arthur Brooks** on Wednesday at noon, but once that last table is full -- as predicted -- the event will be sold out. Also, another and probably more intriguing piece of breaking news: This may be your last chance to hear Arthur Brooks in his role as AEI President. See his announcement in *The Wall Street Journal* of passing the torch next year **here**.

Please do register to attend if you would like to occupy one of those additional seats and take advantage of this special opportunity to hear from him firsthand.

You are cordially invited to join us for an extraordinary luncheon talk featuring American Enterprise Institute (AEI) President Arthur Brooks on Wednesday, March 21, at noon.

This is one event that you don't want to miss, so **register soon**. Further details are available by following the registration link.

We hope to see you Wednesday!

Sincerely,
The Buckeye Institute team

Register to Attend

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

Support The Buckeye Institute!



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe= 2 carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Counties tell state to provide money for Medicaid work requirement plan

= 9

Monday, March 19, 2018

[View in Browser](#)

= 9

= 9

= 9



= 9

= 9

= 9

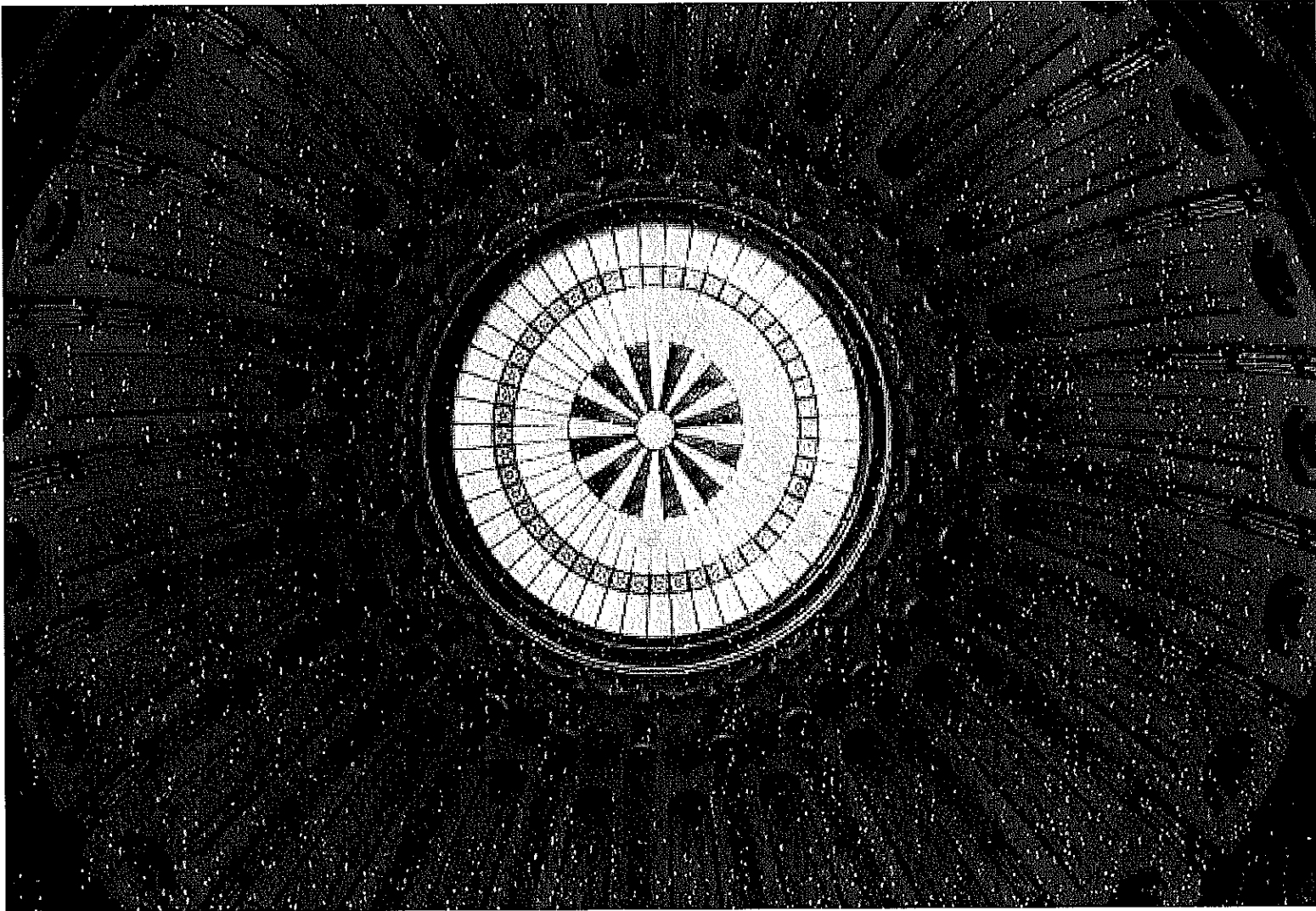
Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

= 9

= 9

: 9



= 9

= A

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9 **Rotunda Rumblings**

= 9 **Money, personnel concerns:** The County Commissioners Association of Ohio, in a Friday letter to Ohio Medicaid Director Barbara Sears, asked the state to find money to help local governments if it wants to

require recipients to work at least 20 hours a week. The letter said county job and family service agencies would have to determine who is eligible for Medicaid expansion under the new requirements. Yet the system is stretched due to increasing caseloads and less state money. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services told states "that it will not make additional resources available for job training, child care assistance, transportation, or other work supports," the letter states.

= 9 **Tech updates:** Ohio's proposal exempts Medicaid recipients from work if they're disabled or caretakers. In the letter, the counties asked the state to make technology updates before imposing the work requirements, so the governments can easily identify who is exempt and who needs to work. Sunday was the last day Ohio Medicaid accepted comments on its work proposal, which Republicans in Columbus and Washington generally support. The department is expected to review the comments and possibly tweak the proposal, then ship it to D.C. for approval.

= 9

No fracking way: Columbus Democratic Rep. David Leland introduced a bill Friday he said would protect the state's parks and nature preserves from the impacts of hydraulic fracturing by prohibiting new wells on land typically enjoyed by families and outdoor recreation lovers. The bill comes after Thursday's first meeting of the Ohio Oil and Gas Leasing Commission. The commission is supposed to review and grant oil and gas companies leases to explore, drill and frack on state land. The legislature created the commission in 2011, but Gov. John Kasich took six years to name commissioners, who spent Thursday learning about public records laws and ethics requirements of serving on a government board.

= 9 **Reach out and treat someone:** Health insurers would be required to provide coverage for telemedicine services on the same basis as in-person services, under new legislation in the Ohio House. Under House Bill 546, insurance companies would not be allowed to exclude coverage for telemedicine services, nor impose a lifetime benefit maximum for such services. But it would still allow insurers to bill at different rates for telemedicine. Republican Rep. Tom Patton, the bill's sponsor, argues the measure would allow faster access to care and ensure that rural Ohioans who might not have a doctor nearby can use services such as remote patient monitoring.

= **A Precourt kicks back:** Anthony Precourt, owner of the Columbus Crew, argued in a Friday letter to Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther that he doesn't believe a state law can prevent the Major League Soccer franchise from moving to Austin, Texas. And even if it did, Precourt believes he has satisfied the law's requirement that he notify the city that he's leaving and give it an opportunity to purchase the team. If anyone wants to buy the team, he said they need to contact him, according to the letter.

= **9 DeWine's response:** GOP Attorney General Mike DeWine and the city are suing Precourt over his desire to move the team. DeWine said Friday that the case will continue. He sees the letter as the beginning of a six-month period in which Precourt must provide a reasonable opportunity for local investors to purchase the Crew.

= **9 Dems gain in OH-12 forecast:** The Cook Political Report has downgraded Republicans' chances of holding onto Ohio's 12th congressional district from "Likely Republican" to "Leans Republican." The Report's Dave Wasserman wrote Friday that like Pennsylvania's 18th district, which flipped to the Democrats last week, OH-12 "combines well-educated suburbs with a lot of old union bastions — except it's even less Republican." Wasserman also notes "Democrats may have a promising candidate there" — a likely reference to Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor. The report's re-scoring came a day after Sabato's Crystal Ball similarly nudged its OH-12 rating a bit toward the Democrats.

= 9

Southern comfort: Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray has picked up endorsements from 14 county Democratic party chairs in Southern Ohio, including: Adams, Athens, Brown, Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton counties.

= **9 Top 10 Ohio House Democratic primaries to watch in 2018**

= 9

District 10: Downtown Cleveland, Bratenahl

= 9 **Who's running:** Nelson Cintron Jr., TJ Dow, Kyle Earley, Aanand Mehta, Ronnie Jones, Billy Sharp, Terrence Upchurch, Danielle Shepherd.

= 9 Everyone and their mom seems to be running to succeed term-limited Rep. Bill Patmon in this heavily Democratic district in central Cleveland. Upchurch has the endorsement of the Cuyahoga County Democrats (which will publicize him via their sample ballot). Earley, a pastor and a former top aide to ex-state Sen. Nina Turner, has the backing of the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus. Dow, a former Cleveland city councilman, has a voter base, though he's currently facing allegations of voter fraud. Cintron, also a former Cleveland councilman, is these days a perennial candidate with little chance of winning. Mehta, an attorney at JonesDay, has some well-regarded operatives helping his campaign -- including Michael Bowen, who ran Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's re-election campaign last year. With so many candidates, the race will likely be decided by who has the best voter turnout operation.

= A

District 12: Part of Cleveland's West Side, Maple Heights, Pepper Pike, and other parts of east suburban Cuyahoga County

= 9 **Who's running:** Juanita Brent, Patrice Brown, Earl W. Campbell Sr., Yvonka Hall, Dimitri McDaniel, Isaac Powell

= 9 Brent, the daughter of the late activist and ex-Rep. Vermel Whalen, has a leg up as the endorsed candidate of the Cuyahoga County Democrats, though she recently got media coverage for an overdue driver's license renewal (noteworthy mainly because Ed FitzGerald's 2014 gubernatorial campaign was sunk in part by a similar, though far more serious, issue). Hall, the executive director of the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, is the progressives' choice. McDaniel is a Case Western Reserve University law student and a former aide to state Sen. Sandra Williams. The other candidates are either political unknowns or perennial candidates.

= 9

District 13: Lakewood, part of Cleveland's West Side, Linndale

= 9 **Who's running:** Tom Bullock, Mike Skindell

= 9 Skindell is very well known in the district, having represented the area in the legislature since 2003. But Bullock, a Lakewood city councilman, has momentum, scoring endorsements so far from the Cuyahoga County Democrats, U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, and the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats, among others. The campaign is taking place amid a battle for the Cuyahoga County Democrats between establishment Dems and progressives. Skindell is affiliated with the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus; Bullock is considered more of an establishment candidate, though he's been careful not to tie himself to a particular side.

= A **District 19:** Northeast Franklin County, including Gahanna and New Albany

= 9

Who's running: Noni Banks, Mary Lightbody

= 9

Observers predict this will be a close race between two Westerville residents: Lightbody, a Harvard grad and longtime K-12 and university science teacher, and Banks, founder of The Diva Movement, a women's leadership organization. Lightbody entered the race before Banks, but that advantage could be eroded by Banks if she proves to be a strong fundraiser and campaigner. The Franklin County Democrats declined to endorse in the race.

= 9 **District 24:** Parts of western/central Franklin County, including Hilliard and Upper Arlington

= 9

Who's running: Andrea Bonny, Mary Relotto, Allison Russo

= 9

Relotto and Russo are the early favorites in this suburban Columbus district. Russo, a health-policy researcher from Upper Arlington, is the more establishment-y candidate; Relotto, founder of the all-female career networking site Dames Bond, is the more progressive and activist-y candidate. Bonny, a pediatrician from Upper Arlington, is a comparative unknown, having entered the race relatively recently. The Franklin County Democrats didn't endorse in the race.

= 9 **District 26:** Southeastern Columbus

= 9 **Who's running:** Erica Crawley, Michael Cole

= 9 Crawley, a U.S. Navy veteran and law clerk, won the endorsement from the Franklin County Democrats, giving the first-time candidate an edge in the race to succeed Rep. Hearcel Craig in a heavily Democratic district covering southeast and part of western Columbus. But don't count out Cole, a Columbus City School Board member whose name is only a syllable different from Michael Coleman, the popular former mayor of Columbus.

= 9

District 50: Eastern Stark County

= 9 **Who's running:** Cassie Gabelt, Courtlen Vizzuso

= 9

Outgoing Republican Rep. Christina Hagan's seat, which covers the eastern half of Stark County, is a longshot for Democrats in November. But it still features an interesting primary between Gabelt, a U.S. Navy veteran from Alliance who works as a mediator, and Vizzuso, a recent Ohio University grad from Alliance who was recruited by Run For Something, a national PAC that recruits young Dems to run for office. Gabelt is perhaps the early favorite, given she entered the race earlier and has support from local progressive groups.

= 9

District 56: Northwestern Lorain County

= 9 **Who's running:** Mark Ballard II, Joe Miller, Claudia Olaes, Cory Shawver

= 9 Shawver and Miller are the early frontrunners in the race to take over term-limited Rep. Dan Ramos's seat in this Democratic-friendly district. As a resident of Lorain, Shawver (the former executive director of the Lorain County Democrats) has a geographic advantage over Miller, a councilman from the smaller city of Amherst (a non-Lorain resident has never won the district in recent memory). But Miller, a high-school teacher, could pick up support from education organizations, and he was recently endorsed by the Ohio AFL-CIO. Ballard, a law student, is the son of a Lorain school board member and a former district director for ex-U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton. Olaes is a student at Oberlin College.

= 9 **District 59:** Western, central, and southern Mahoning County

= 9 **Who's running:** Larry Moliterno, Eric Ungaro

= 9

Ungaro, a Poland Township trustee, is perhaps the slight favorite to win the district, currently held by outgoing Democratic Rep. John Boccieri. The son of ex-Youngstown Mayor Pat Ungaro, Eric easily won the Mahoning County Democrats' endorsement for the seat. But Moliterno, as a trustee for Boardman Township (the largest township in Mahoning County), has a power base, and he's been in the race longer than Ungaro. High voter turnout in the primary would likely benefit Ungaro.

= 9 **District 75:** Southern half of Portage County

= 9 **Who's running:** Denise Baba, Randi Clites, Alice Freitas

= 9

Clites and Baba are the frontrunners to take over term-limited Rep. Kathleen Clyde's seat in southern Portage County. Clites entered the race more than a year ago – the Ravenna resident hasn't run for office before, though as an associate director with the Northern Ohio Hemophilia Foundation, she successfully lobbied the Ohio House to preserve funding for a children's medical assistance program. Baba, a former TV reporter, serves on the Streetsboro Board of Education and is ex-president of the Ohio School Boards Association. Freitas, who entered the race at the last minute, is the former president of a transgender advocacy group at Kent State University.

= 9 **Stories We're Talking About**

= 9

Pack a school lunch and a gun: State Rep. Niraj Antani said law-abiding 18-year-olds should be allowed to carry guns at school, according to cleveland.com's Cliff Pinckard. Then, after criticism mounted online, the Miamisburg Republican claimed on Twitter he did a poor job explaining his position, which actually was that he doesn't advocate arming students.

= 9

Humble brag: Gov. John Kasich personally called the Columbus Dispatch and apologized for saying a story about lackluster job creation numbers

was "fake news," writes the Dispatch's Darrel Rowland. Last week, Rowland wrote that job creation in 2017 was lower under Kasich than Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland's last year in office – based on inaccurate numbers provided by the state that have since been corrected.

= A

Jordan backs Hagan: Shortly after highlighting, then criticizing a Washington Post profile on her U.S. House candidacy, state Rep. Christina Hagan on Friday received the endorsement of House Freedom Caucus leader U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan of Lima, reports cleveland.com's Andrew Tobias.

= 9

Dann elaborating on guns: On cleveland.com's Ohio Matters podcast, former Democratic AG Mark Dann shared his view that the NRA controls the gun debate. He also said Democratic gov candidate Dennis Kucinich's proposal to ban assault weapons could mobilize the Democratic base.

= 9 **Bharara boost:** Former federal prosecutor and outspoken White House critic Preet Bharara was in Ohio Sunday, helping a fellow former U.S. attorney, Democrat Steven Dettelbach, raise money for his Ohio attorney general race. Bharara tells the Associated Press it is only the second time he's raised money for a candidate since President Donald Trump fired him last year.

= 9

Dog fight: The Dispatch reports that a bill that attempts to head off a proposed constitutional amendment outlawing puppy mills gets a vote on the House floor this week. However, the Humane Society of the United States prefers the amendment proposal over House Bill 506.

= 9 **Happy birthday:** Cleveland.com editorial writer Thomas Suddes opines that the Ohio General Assembly has too relaxed an attitude on LGBTQ rights, since a nondiscrimination measure hasn't made it to the House floor after nearly a year since it's been introduced. Ditto with the year-old House Bill 123, which would cap payday lending interest rates and fees.

= 9 **Ethics question:** Pharmacist Margaret Scott had responsibility over Ohio Medicaid's drug program, but left her state job last fall and then was hired by CVS, according to the Dispatch, which is questioning whether her

actions were ethical. CVS affiliate Caremark is hired by Medicaid managed care insurers as a pharmacy benefit manager, setting pharmacy rates and negotiating drug rebates.

= 9

Welcome: Melissa Ackison, a GOP U.S. Senate candidate, released a campaign video in which she invited her opponents to her house to view her gun collection, the Dispatch reports.

= 9 **Full Disclosure**

= 9 Five things we learned from Granville Township Republican Rep. Scott Ryan's May 15 ethics disclosure statement.

= 9

1. In addition to his legislative duties, from which he earned \$66,367 in 2016, he's an agent with SHAI Commercial Real Estate Ltd. in Granville.

= 9

2. He listed three business ventures that he or his family were involved in: Newark Leader Printing Co. and Leader Printing, both of which he owns stock in, and Ryan Joint Venture, a company he said he inherited and partly owns.

= 9

3. He's a volunteer board member of the Licking County Family YMCA and the Columbus District Golf Association.

= 9 4. His credit cards give him travel benefits: He owed at least \$1,000 in 2016 each to Chase Marriott Visa, Chase Southwest Visa and AAA Visa. He also owed money to a Sears charge card, two Citibank cards, Bank of America Visa, Chase Slate Visa, Park National Bank, Universal 1 Credit Union and Discover.

= 9 5. He received \$1,719.25 in mileage reimbursement from the state for his trips between home and the General Assembly. His campaign committee reimbursed him \$2,236 in mileage. And he traveled to Denver for a higher ed training for the nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures, for which he was reimbursed \$454.20 for airfare, \$433.76 for lodging and \$85.44 for ground transportation.

= 9 **What's Going On**

= 9

2:45 p.m. – Jon Husted to campaign in Lima: The secretary of state and GOP candidate for lieutenant governor is slated to speak and take questions from voters. *Club UNOH, 1450 N. Cable Rd. Lima.*

= 9

5:30 p.m. – Sen. Sandra Williams fundraiser: Sponsor levels for the Cleveland Democrat range from \$50 to \$500. *Crop Bistro & Bar, 2537 Lorain Ave., Cleveland.*

= 9 **6:30 p.m. -- Ohioans for Gun Safety meeting:** The group is not optimistic Ohio legislators will enact sufficient background checks for gun purchases and will talk about drafting a ballot measure for as soon as 2019. *SEIU District 1199, 1771 E. 30th St, Cleveland.*

= 9 **Birthdays**

= 9

Matt Damschroder, chief of staff to Secretary of State Jon Husted

= 9 **Straight From The Source**

= 9

"I think people overwhelmingly wonder about President Trump when he calls everybody else names, including people in his own party, but he never, ever criticizes Putin. So I would guess 70 percent, 80 percent of the people in Ohio, including Trump voters, really do wonder what exactly it is between Putin and Trump that we don't know details about yet."

= 9

-U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown on "Meet the Press" Sunday

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at Capitolletter@cleveland.com.

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9 = 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9 To ensure receipt of our emails, please add

cleveland.com_newsletters@update.cleveland.com to your address book or safe sender list.

You received this email because you opted-in to the newsletter. Was it forwarded to you? Sign

up now!

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9 [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [CONTACT US](#)

= 9

= 9

= 9

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:04 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Policymakers Should Take Bolder Strides on Health Care Reforms that Country Can Follow

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Policymakers Should Take Bolder Strides on Health Care Reforms that Country Can Follow

Buckeye Submits Public Comments on Ohio's Medicaid Waiver Proposals

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the **Economic Research Center** and vice president of policy, submitted public comments on Ohio's two Medicaid waiver proposals -- the **work and community engagement waiver** and the **state innovation or 1332 waiver**.

"After years of failure in Washington, these waivers represent the first step in Ohio repairing its broken health insurance markets," said Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute and vice president of policy.

"While we applaud these proposals, we encourage policymakers to take bigger, bolder

strides to blaze a trail of innovative health insurance reforms that the rest of the country can follow."

Work and Community Engagement Wavier

Pointing out that Medicaid was drastically changed under the Affordable Care Act, Hederman said in his public comments, "Encouraging healthy, able-bodied adults to remain in the workforce or engage in other educational and training activities, Ohio's proposed Section 1115 waiver will enhance lifetime earnings, income, and health. By enhancing the health of the covered Medicaid enrollees, Ohio's proposed waiver meets the twin goals of the waiver demonstration project by promoting economic stability and improving health."

While noting that "Ohio's waiver proposal pursues sound public policy," Hederman outlined recommended improvements to the proposal in several key areas: data collection, self-reporting, age requirements, auditing beneficiary reporting, and emphasizing the disincentives to work created by expanded-Medicaid.

State Innovation or 1332 Waiver

Although the recent federal tax reform legislation reduced the tax penalty for violating the individual mandate to \$0, Hederman said that "the mandate itself remains in federal law and the penalty could be raised again someday."

Hederman went on to urge policymakers to use the Section 1332 process to explore new alternatives to the status quo. "Policymakers could, for instance, request a waiver from the Affordable Care Act's employer mandate. Combining such a waiver with a reinsurance waiver like Alaska's could help the individual market while alleviating a significant burden for small businesses. Ohio should use the waiver process boldly and creatively to lower individual insurance premiums and stabilize the state's insurance market."

As repeal of the Affordable Care Act floundered at the federal level, Hederman, an expert in health care policy, was the first to propose using section 1332 waivers as a way to allow states to waive parts of the law and take back the ability to regulate their insurance markets. Hederman, and co-author Dennis G. Smith, outlined this approach in the report ***Returning Health Care Power to the States***.

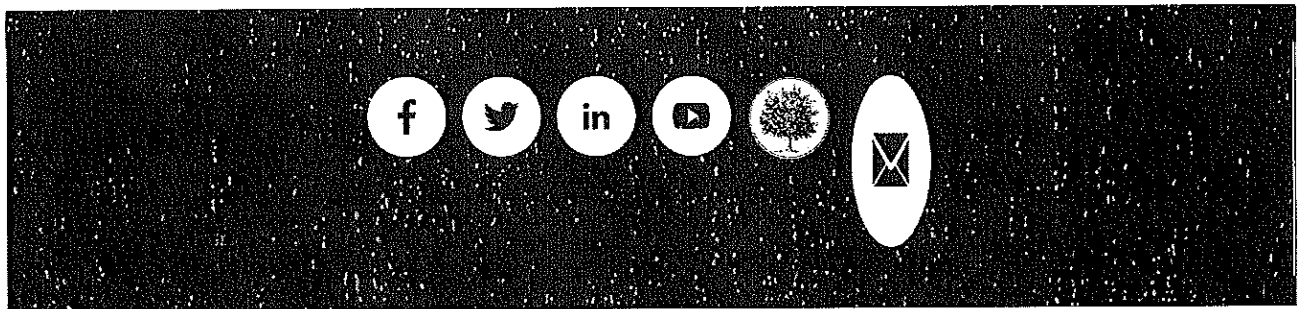
More recently, in ***Federal Efforts to Stabilize ACA Individual Markets through State Innovation***, a study for the **Mercatus Center** at George Mason University, Hederman and Doug Badger with the Galen Institute argue that Congress and the administration should empower states to devise new ways to make health insurance more affordable for more people.

The Buckeye Institute's public comments were filed on Friday, March 16, 2018.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 12:48 PM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Dissent Reveals Growing List of Supreme Court Justices Agree with The Buckeye Institute About Administrative Agency Overreach

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Dissent Reveals Growing List of Supreme Court Justices Agree with The Buckeye Institute About Administrative Agency Overreach

Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, The Buckeye Institute's president and chief executive officer, issued the following statement following the **decision by the Supreme Court of the United States** declining to hear *Garco Construction, Inc. v. Secretary of the Army*-a case that challenged administrative state and federal government overreach.

"While we are disappointed that the Supreme Court chose not to hear *Garco Construction, Inc. v. Secretary of the Army*, we are encouraged by Justice Clarence Thomas's dissent, which was joined by Justice Neil Gorsuch in expressing that government agencies should not be allowed to be the judge of what their own rules mean," said **Robert Alt**, president and chief executive officer at The Buckeye Institute. "This is the exact point Buckeye raised in its **amicus brief** and their dissent reads as a challenge to bring more cases that

would overturn ill-conceived Supreme Court precedent allowing for this kind of overreach. We say, Challenge Accepted!"

Justice Thomas's dissent noted that Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito previously have joined opinions suggesting that judicial deference to an agency's legal interpretation of its own regulations should be reconsidered. By joining the dissent, Justice Gorsuch adds to that chorus seeking to reconsider this important question. Justice Thomas concluded by saying, the "Court has passed up another opportunity to remedy precisely the accumulation of governmental powers that the Framers warned against."

Despite the setback in *Garco Construction*, The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center** will continue to pursue opportunities for the Supreme Court of the United States to remedy these kinds of administrative abuses.

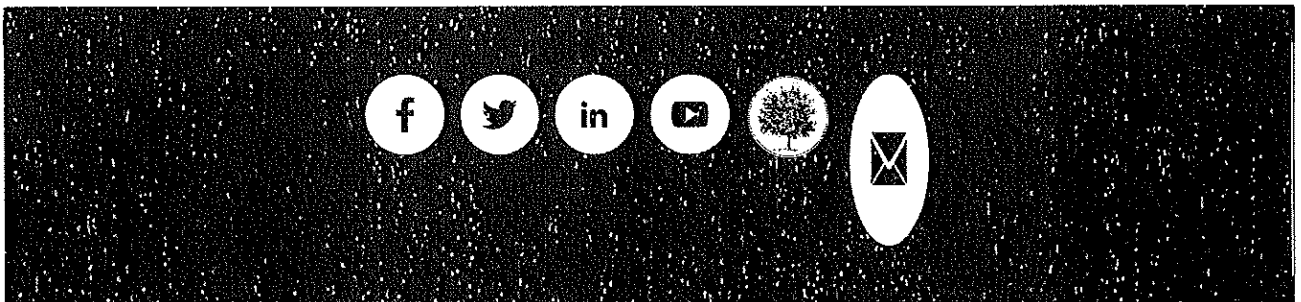
= A

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

= A



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:48 PM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Occupational Licensing is a Red-Taped Obstacle for Workers

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Occupational Licensing is a Red-Taped Obstacle for Workers

*Greg Lawson Testifies Before the Ohio Senate Government
Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 255*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 255.

In opening his testimony, Lawson said of Ohio's occupational licensing requirements, "No one denies that state licensing requirements are needed in some cases and industries to ensure public safety...But these concerns fade quickly when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements."

Lawson also pointed to the state's burdensome occupational licensing as a factor slowing Ohio's economic recovery and impacting Ohio's minority communities, "State permission slip policies that make it harder and more expensive to find work only exacerbate the problem." Going on later to note that that while the state's labor force participation has improved in recent years it remains below the national average and "Occupational licensing hurdles only make Ohio's full recovery more difficult."

The research in support of reducing occupational licensing spans the political spectrum with Lawson highlighting research by the **Heritage Foundation**, **National Bureau of Economic Research**, the **Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project**, and **Democratic and Republican** administrations. He also highlighted Buckeye's own research, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back* and *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*.

In closing, Lawson urged policymakers to reform Ohio's occupational licensing regulations saying, "Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long."

###

= A

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 255
Before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 21, 2018**

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Senate Bill 255 and Ohio's need for occupational licensing reform.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

Ohioans should not have to ask the state for permission to earn a living. Yet, all too often, Ohio creates permission slip policies that make it harder -- and sometimes impossible -- for Ohioans or would-be Ohioans to pursue their careers and put food on the table for their families. Such policies must end.

No one denies that state licensing requirements are needed in some cases and industries to ensure public safety. Requiring appropriate education and training for physicians, healthcare providers, pilots, and truck drivers, for example, helps safeguard the general public in our hospitals and on our roads and runways. But these concerns fade quickly when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements.

Consider Jennifer McClellan. A new mother, a long-time professional, and a licensed massage therapist, Jennifer tried moving back to Ohio to be closer to her family, but the Ohio State Medical Board denied her license application because she was 10 days shy of the state's training requirements.[1] The board unduly discounted Jennifer's years of training and work experience, and would not honor the license she had already earned in Minnesota. Jennifer is not alone.

Tragically, such cases plague Ohio's minority communities -- communities already facing daunting employment prospects. Nationally, the unemployment rate among African Americans remains much higher than among other demographics. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the most recent unemployment rate among African Americans was 6.9 percent -- nearly double the 3.7 percent rate for whites.[2] Unemployment confronts 27.2 percent of young African Americans between 16 and 19, compared to the 12.6 percent of young whites.[3] State permission slip policies that make it harder and more expensive to find work only exacerbate the problem, adding insult to injury in our job-deprived minority communities.

Recent scholarship across the political spectrum has highlighted the challenges presented by occupational licensing schemes and has made clear that the burdens created by such bureaucratic requirements must be lifted.

For starters, according to the Heritage Foundation, occupational licensing requirements cost the average U.S. household a staggering \$1,033 per year.[4] Even more troubling, however, are the adverse effects that licensing has on interstate mobility and the labor market itself. A new study by professors Janna Johnson and Morris Kleiner of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, for example, found that the migration rate of workers in occupations with state-specific licensing exam requirements was 36 percent lower than

rates for other occupations.[5] By contrast, occupations with national examinations showed no evidence of such a limitation on interstate mobility.[6] Put simply, state-specific licensure makes migration more difficult by closing occupational doors for people who want to move.

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Professor Kleiner has stated that he and Alan Krueger, the former head of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisors, had calculated that licensing laws cost between a half and one percent of jobs nationally in 2010.[7] Those seemingly small percentages amount to tens of thousands of jobs across America that never came into existence -- a claim bolstered by research out of the Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project revealing that stringent licensing requirements result in fewer providers of the services subject to the requirements.[8] Fewer providers means fewer employers and fewer available jobs.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given Mr. Krueger and Professor Kleiner's findings, the Obama Administration released a detailed report in 2015 calling for nationwide reforms to occupational licensing.[9] Echoing bipartisan support for such measures, the Trump Administration's Secretary of Labor has since said, "Americans want principled, broad-based reform. If licenses are unnecessary, eliminate them. If they are needed, streamline them. And, if they are honored by one state, consider honoring them in your own state. Americans looking to enter the workforce deserve no less than our most ardent efforts to remove regulatory barriers so that they can have a job." [10]

Focusing less on national trends and more on Ohio's own licensing concerns, The Buckeye Institute's report, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, showed not only that Ohio's licensing burdens are well above the national average, but also that nearly every Ohio license that requires training can be earned in less time in another state.[11]

Our subsequent study, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, confirmed the disturbing and stubborn fact that Ohio's licensing requirements erect higher barriers to employment for those most in need of quality jobs: middle-aged and low-income workers, and those without a college degree.[12]

Senate Bill 255 takes several steps toward fixing Ohio's occupational licensure problem. First, for the first time in state history, policymakers would be required to use the least restrictive regulation when displacing competition, and the bill identifies various licensing alternatives -- listed from least restrictive to most restrictive -- that the state could pursue if confronting a verifiable public safety risk. Second, Senate Bill 255 establishes a process for

legislative panels to use when weeding through Ohio's overgrown thicket of licensing boards. Under this process, boards that the General Assembly does not proactively reauthorize would simply dissolve. Taken together, these provisions give lawmakers a much-needed tool for uprooting bureaucratic thistles that deprive Ohioans of the potential fruits of their labor.

In addition to its sunset provisions, Senate Bill 255 also creates a sunrise review process to be used whenever a new licensing bill is introduced. This provision will require the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to assess the potential consequences of any new licensing legislation with respect to employment opportunities, consumer choices and costs, market competition, and costs to the government. Additionally, under S.B. 255, the LSC must assess 20 percent of the occupations regulated by the state each calendar year beginning in 2018, assess all occupations at least once before 2022, and continue such assessments on a five-year rolling basis after 2022.

These are all positive strides for a state still struggling to create new jobs. Ohio still has not rebounded fully from the tech bubble burst and remains down by almost 93,000 private-sector jobs from its peak in March 2000 -- now 18 years ago.[13] The state's labor force participation has improved in recent years, but remains slightly below the national average. Occupational licensing hurdles only make Ohio's full recovery more difficult.

Every licensing requirement raises a new red-taped obstacle for workers to clear before earning a living or starting a new career. Every hour of unpaid training needed to satisfy bureaucratic requirements is an hour not spent earning tips, impressing a boss, serving a customer, or opening a business. Those are hours of lost productivity, hours of opportunity that young, low-income workers sorely need, but that the state continues to take for itself.

Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions that the Committee might have.

[1] Greg R. Lawson, **Goodbye, Ohio. A Talented Massage Therapist Forced to Leave State Because of Crazy Licensing Rules**, The Buckeye Institute, February 29, 2016.

[2] Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Table A-2. Employment Status of Civilian Population by Race, Sex, and Age**, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018)

[3] *Ibid.*

- [4] Salim Furth, *Costly Mistakes: How Bad Policies Raise the Cost of Living*, The Heritage Foundation, November 23, 2015.
- [5] Janna E. Johnson and Morris M. Kleiner, *Is Occupational Licensing a Barrier to Interstate Migration?*, National Bureau of Economic Research, December 2017.
- [6] *Ibid.*
- [7] Morris M. Kleiner, *License to Compete: Occupational Licensing and the State Action Doctrine*, Testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, February 2, 2016.
- [8] Morris M. Kleiner, *Reforming Occupational Licensing Policies*, The Hamilton Project, March 2015.
- [9] The White House, *Occupational Licensing: A Framework for Policymakers*, July 2015.
- [10] Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, *Speech before the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council*, U.S. Department of Labor, July 21, 2017.
- = A
- [11] Tom Lampman, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, The Buckeye Institute, November 18, 2015.
- [12] Orphe Pierre Divounguys, PhD, Bryce Hill, and Greg R. Lawson, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, The Buckeye Institute, December 18, 2017.
- [13] Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Ohio Economy at a Glance*, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018).

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:48 PM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Occupational Licensing is a Red-Taped Obstacle for Workers

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Occupational Licensing is a Red-Taped Obstacle for Workers

*Greg Lawson Testifies Before the Ohio Senate Government
Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 255*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 255.

In opening his testimony, Lawson said of Ohio's occupational licensing requirements, "No one denies that state licensing requirements are needed in some cases and industries to ensure public safety...But these concerns fade quickly when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements."

Lawson also pointed to the state's burdensome occupational licensing as a factor slowing Ohio's economic recovery and impacting Ohio's minority communities, "State permission slip policies that make it harder and more expensive to find work only exacerbate the problem." Going on later to note that that while the state's labor force participation has improved in recent years it remains below the national average and "Occupational licensing hurdles only make Ohio's full recovery more difficult."

The research in support of reducing occupational licensing spans the political spectrum with Lawson highlighting research by the **Heritage Foundation**, **National Bureau of Economic Research**, the **Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project**, and **Democratic and Republican** administrations. He also highlighted Buckeye's own research, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back* and *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*.

In closing, Lawson urged policymakers to reform Ohio's occupational licensing regulations saying, "Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long."

###

= A

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 255
Before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 21, 2018**

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Senate Bill 255 and Ohio's need for occupational licensing reform.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

Ohioans should not have to ask the state for permission to earn a living. Yet, all too often, Ohio creates permission slip policies that make it harder -- and sometimes impossible -- for Ohioans or would-be Ohioans to pursue their careers and put food on the table for their families. Such policies must end.

No one denies that state licensing requirements are needed in some cases and industries to ensure public safety. Requiring appropriate education and training for physicians, healthcare providers, pilots, and truck drivers, for example, helps safeguard the general public in our hospitals and on our roads and runways. But these concerns fade quickly when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements.

Consider Jennifer McClellan. A new mother, a long-time professional, and a licensed massage therapist, Jennifer tried moving back to Ohio to be closer to her family, but the Ohio State Medical Board denied her license application because she was 10 days shy of the state's training requirements.[1] The board unduly discounted Jennifer's years of training and work experience, and would not honor the license she had already earned in Minnesota. Jennifer is not alone.

Tragically, such cases plague Ohio's minority communities -- communities already facing daunting employment prospects. Nationally, the unemployment rate among African Americans remains much higher than among other demographics. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the most recent unemployment rate among African Americans was 6.9 percent -- nearly double the 3.7 percent rate for whites.[2] Unemployment confronts 27.2 percent of young African Americans between 16 and 19, compared to the 12.6 percent of young whites.[3] State permission slip policies that make it harder and more expensive to find work only exacerbate the problem, adding insult to injury in our job-deprived minority communities.

Recent scholarship across the political spectrum has highlighted the challenges presented by occupational licensing schemes and has made clear that the burdens created by such bureaucratic requirements must be lifted.

For starters, according to the Heritage Foundation, occupational licensing requirements cost the average U.S. household a staggering \$1,033 per year.[4] Even more troubling, however, are the adverse effects that licensing has on interstate mobility and the labor market itself. A new study by professors Janna Johnson and Morris Kleiner of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, for example, found that the migration rate of workers in occupations with state-specific licensing exam requirements was 36 percent lower than

rates for other occupations.[5] By contrast, occupations with national examinations showed no evidence of such a limitation on interstate mobility.[6] Put simply, state-specific licensure makes migration more difficult by closing occupational doors for people who want to move.

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Professor Kleiner has stated that he and Alan Krueger, the former head of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisors, had calculated that licensing laws cost between a half and one percent of jobs nationally in 2010.[7] Those seemingly small percentages amount to tens of thousands of jobs across America that never came into existence -- a claim bolstered by research out of the Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project revealing that stringent licensing requirements result in fewer providers of the services subject to the requirements.[8] Fewer providers means fewer employers and fewer available jobs.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given Mr. Krueger and Professor Kleiner's findings, the Obama Administration released a detailed report in 2015 calling for nationwide reforms to occupational licensing.[9] Echoing bipartisan support for such measures, the Trump Administration's Secretary of Labor has since said, "Americans want principled, broad-based reform. If licenses are unnecessary, eliminate them. If they are needed, streamline them. And, if they are honored by one state, consider honoring them in your own state. Americans looking to enter the workforce deserve no less than our most ardent efforts to remove regulatory barriers so that they can have a job." [10]

Focusing less on national trends and more on Ohio's own licensing concerns, The Buckeye Institute's report, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, showed not only that Ohio's licensing burdens are well above the national average, but also that nearly every Ohio license that requires training can be earned in less time in another state.[11]

Our subsequent study, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, confirmed the disturbing and stubborn fact that Ohio's licensing requirements erect higher barriers to employment for those most in need of quality jobs: middle-aged and low-income workers, and those without a college degree.[12]

Senate Bill 255 takes several steps toward fixing Ohio's occupational licensure problem. First, for the first time in state history, policymakers would be required to use the least restrictive regulation when displacing competition, and the bill identifies various licensing alternatives -- listed from least restrictive to most restrictive -- that the state could pursue if confronting a verifiable public safety risk. Second, Senate Bill 255 establishes a process for

legislative panels to use when weeding through Ohio's overgrown thicket of licensing boards. Under this process, boards that the General Assembly does not proactively reauthorize would simply dissolve. Taken together, these provisions give lawmakers a much-needed tool for uprooting bureaucratic thistles that deprive Ohioans of the potential fruits of their labor.

In addition to its sunset provisions, Senate Bill 255 also creates a sunrise review process to be used whenever a new licensing bill is introduced. This provision will require the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to assess the potential consequences of any new licensing legislation with respect to employment opportunities, consumer choices and costs, market competition, and costs to the government. Additionally, under S.B. 255, the LSC must assess 20 percent of the occupations regulated by the state each calendar year beginning in 2018, assess all occupations at least once before 2022, and continue such assessments on a five-year rolling basis after 2022.

These are all positive strides for a state still struggling to create new jobs. Ohio still has not rebounded fully from the tech bubble burst and remains down by almost 93,000 private-sector jobs from its peak in March 2000 -- now 18 years ago.[13] The state's labor force participation has improved in recent years, but remains slightly below the national average. Occupational licensing hurdles only make Ohio's full recovery more difficult.

Every licensing requirement raises a new red-taped obstacle for workers to clear before earning a living or starting a new career. Every hour of unpaid training needed to satisfy bureaucratic requirements is an hour not spent earning tips, impressing a boss, serving a customer, or opening a business. Those are hours of lost productivity, hours of opportunity that young, low-income workers sorely need, but that the state continues to take for itself.

Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions that the Committee might have.

[1] Greg R. Lawson, **Goodbye, Ohio. A Talented Massage Therapist Forced to Leave State Because of Crazy Licensing Rules**, The Buckeye Institute, February 29, 2016.

[2] Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Table A-2. Employment Status of Civilian Population by Race, Sex, and Age**, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018)

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] Salim Furth, *Costly Mistakes: How Bad Policies Raise the Cost of Living*, The Heritage Foundation, November 23, 2015.

[5] Janna E. Johnson and Morris M. Kleiner, *Is Occupational Licensing a Barrier to Interstate Migration?*, National Bureau of Economic Research, December 2017.

[6] *Ibid.*

[7] Morris M. Kleiner, *License to Compete: Occupational Licensing and the State Action Doctrine*, Testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, February 2, 2016.

[8] Morris M. Kleiner, *Reforming Occupational Licensing Policies*, The Hamilton Project, March 2015.

[9] The White House, *Occupational Licensing: A Framework for Policymakers*, July 2015.

[10] Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, *Speech before the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council*, U.S. Department of Labor, July 21, 2017.

= A

[11] Tom Lampman, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, The Buckeye Institute, November 18, 2015.

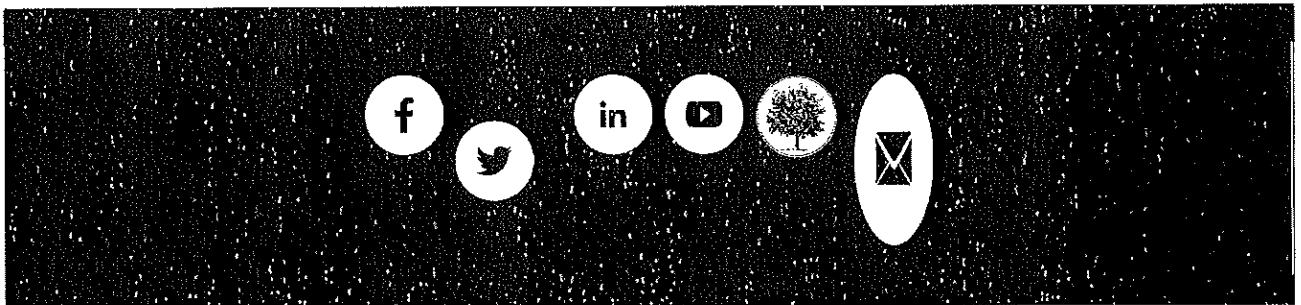
[12] Orphe Pierre Divounguys, PhD, Bryce Hill, and Greg R. Lawson, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, The Buckeye Institute, December 18, 2017.

[13] Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Ohio Economy at a Glance*, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018).

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:48 PM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Occupational Licensing is a Red-Taped Obstacle for Workers

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Occupational Licensing is a Red-Taped Obstacle for Workers

*Greg Lawson Testifies Before the Ohio Senate Government
Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 255*

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee on Senate Bill 255.

In opening his testimony, Lawson said of Ohio's occupational licensing requirements, "No one denies that state licensing requirements are needed in some cases and industries to ensure public safety...But these concerns fade quickly when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements."

Lawson also pointed to the state's burdensome occupational licensing as a factor slowing Ohio's economic recovery and impacting Ohio's minority communities, "State permission slip policies that make it harder and more expensive to find work only exacerbate the problem." Going on later to note that while the state's labor force participation has improved in recent years it remains below the national average and "Occupational licensing hurdles only make Ohio's full recovery more difficult."

The research in support of reducing occupational licensing spans the political spectrum with Lawson highlighting research by the **Heritage Foundation**, **National Bureau of Economic Research**, the **Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project**, and **Democratic and Republican** administrations. He also highlighted Buckeye's own research, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back* and *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*.

In closing, Lawson urged policymakers to reform Ohio's occupational licensing regulations saying, "Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long."

###

= A

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 255
Before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 21, 2018**

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Senate Bill 255 and Ohio's need for occupational licensing reform.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

Ohioans should not have to ask the state for permission to earn a living. Yet, all too often, Ohio creates permission slip policies that make it harder -- and sometimes impossible -- for Ohioans or would-be Ohioans to pursue their careers and put food on the table for their families. Such policies must end.

No one denies that state licensing requirements are needed in some cases and industries to ensure public safety. Requiring appropriate education and training for physicians, healthcare providers, pilots, and truck drivers, for example, helps safeguard the general public in our hospitals and on our roads and runways. But these concerns fade quickly when applied to auctioneers, travel guides, and hairdressers -- all of whom are subject to Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements.

Consider Jennifer McClellan. A new mother, a long-time professional, and a licensed massage therapist, Jennifer tried moving back to Ohio to be closer to her family, but the Ohio State Medical Board denied her license application because she was 10 days shy of the state's training requirements.[1] The board unduly discounted Jennifer's years of training and work experience, and would not honor the license she had already earned in Minnesota. Jennifer is not alone.

Tragically, such cases plague Ohio's minority communities -- communities already facing daunting employment prospects. Nationally, the unemployment rate among African Americans remains much higher than among other demographics. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the most recent unemployment rate among African Americans was 6.9 percent -- nearly double the 3.7 percent rate for whites.[2] Unemployment confronts 27.2 percent of young African Americans between 16 and 19, compared to the 12.6 percent of young whites.[3] State permission slip policies that make it harder and more expensive to find work only exacerbate the problem, adding insult to injury in our job-deprived minority communities.

Recent scholarship across the political spectrum has highlighted the challenges presented by occupational licensing schemes and has made clear that the burdens created by such bureaucratic requirements must be lifted.

For starters, according to the Heritage Foundation, occupational licensing requirements cost the average U.S. household a staggering \$1,033 per year.[4] Even more troubling, however, are the adverse effects that licensing has on interstate mobility and the labor market itself. A new study by professors Janna Johnson and Morris Kleiner of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, for example, found that the migration rate of workers in occupations with state-specific licensing exam requirements was 36 percent lower than

rates for other occupations.[5] By contrast, occupations with national examinations showed no evidence of such a limitation on interstate mobility.[6] Put simply, state-specific licensure makes migration more difficult by closing occupational doors for people who want to move.

In testimony before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Professor Kleiner has stated that he and Alan Krueger, the former head of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisors, had calculated that licensing laws cost between a half and one percent of jobs nationally in 2010.[7] Those seemingly small percentages amount to tens of thousands of jobs across America that never came into existence -- a claim bolstered by research out of the Brookings Institute's Hamilton Project revealing that stringent licensing requirements result in fewer providers of the services subject to the requirements.[8] Fewer providers means fewer employers and fewer available jobs.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given Mr. Krueger and Professor Kleiner's findings, the Obama Administration released a detailed report in 2015 calling for nationwide reforms to occupational licensing.[9] Echoing bipartisan support for such measures, the Trump Administration's Secretary of Labor has since said, "Americans want principled, broad-based reform. If licenses are unnecessary, eliminate them. If they are needed, streamline them. And, if they are honored by one state, consider honoring them in your own state. Americans looking to enter the workforce deserve no less than our most ardent efforts to remove regulatory barriers so that they can have a job." [10]

Focusing less on national trends and more on Ohio's own licensing concerns, The Buckeye Institute's report, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, showed not only that Ohio's licensing burdens are well above the national average, but also that nearly every Ohio license that requires training can be earned in less time in another state.[11]

Our subsequent study, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, confirmed the disturbing and stubborn fact that Ohio's licensing requirements erect higher barriers to employment for those most in need of quality jobs: middle-aged and low-income workers, and those without a college degree.[12]

Senate Bill 255 takes several steps toward fixing Ohio's occupational licensure problem. First, for the first time in state history, policymakers would be required to use the least restrictive regulation when displacing competition, and the bill identifies various licensing alternatives -- listed from least restrictive to most restrictive -- that the state could pursue if confronting a verifiable public safety risk. Second, Senate Bill 255 establishes a process for

legislative panels to use when weeding through Ohio's overgrown thicket of licensing boards. Under this process, boards that the General Assembly does not proactively reauthorize would simply dissolve. Taken together, these provisions give lawmakers a much-needed tool for uprooting bureaucratic thistles that deprive Ohioans of the potential fruits of their labor.

In addition to its sunset provisions, Senate Bill 255 also creates a sunrise review process to be used whenever a new licensing bill is introduced. This provision will require the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to assess the potential consequences of any new licensing legislation with respect to employment opportunities, consumer choices and costs, market competition, and costs to the government. Additionally, under S.B. 255, the LSC must assess 20 percent of the occupations regulated by the state each calendar year beginning in 2018, assess all occupations at least once before 2022, and continue such assessments on a five-year rolling basis after 2022.

These are all positive strides for a state still struggling to create new jobs. Ohio still has not rebounded fully from the tech bubble burst and remains down by almost 93,000 private-sector jobs from its peak in March 2000 -- now 18 years ago.[13] The state's labor force participation has improved in recent years, but remains slightly below the national average. Occupational licensing hurdles only make Ohio's full recovery more difficult.

Every licensing requirement raises a new red-taped obstacle for workers to clear before earning a living or starting a new career. Every hour of unpaid training needed to satisfy bureaucratic requirements is an hour not spent earning tips, impressing a boss, serving a customer, or opening a business. Those are hours of lost productivity, hours of opportunity that young, low-income workers sorely need, but that the state continues to take for itself.

Senate Bill 255 begins the overdue effort of reforming the state's occupational licensing regime and ending a misguided permission slip policy that has stood in the way of growth and prosperity for far too long.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions that the Committee might have.

[1] Greg R. Lawson, **Goodbye, Ohio. A Talented Massage Therapist Forced to Leave State Because of Crazy Licensing Rules**, The Buckeye Institute, February 29, 2016.

[2] Bureau of Labor Statistics, **Table A-2. Employment Status of Civilian Population by Race, Sex, and Age**, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018)

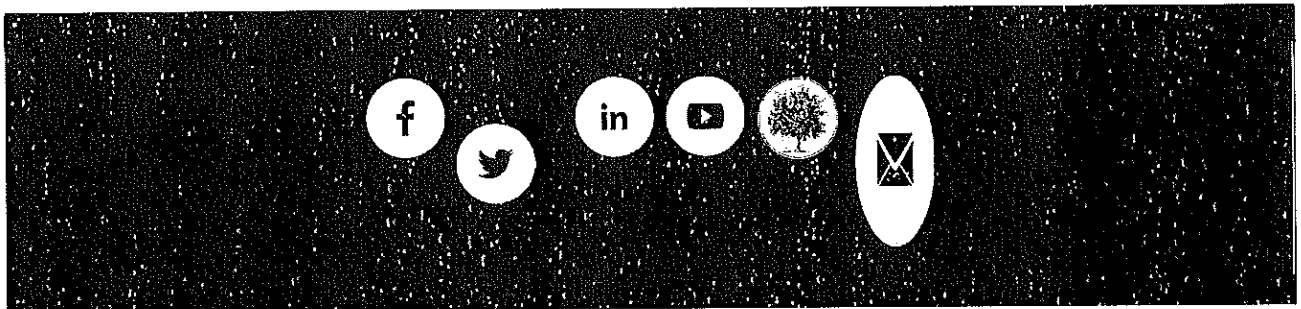
[3] *Ibid.*

- [4] Salim Furth, *Costly Mistakes: How Bad Policies Raise the Cost of Living*, The Heritage Foundation, November 23, 2015.
- [5] Janna E. Johnson and Morris M. Kleiner, *Is Occupational Licensing a Barrier to Interstate Migration?*, National Bureau of Economic Research, December 2017.
- [6] *Ibid.*
- [7] Morris M. Kleiner, *License to Compete: Occupational Licensing and the State Action Doctrine*, Testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, February 2, 2016.
- [8] Morris M. Kleiner, *Reforming Occupational Licensing Policies*, The Hamilton Project, March 2015.
- [9] The White House, *Occupational Licensing: A Framework for Policymakers*, July 2015.
- [10] Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, *Speech before the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council*, U.S. Department of Labor, July 21, 2017.
- = A
- [11] Tom Lampman, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, The Buckeye Institute, November 18, 2015.
- [12] Orphe Pierre Divounguys, PhD, Bryce Hill, and Greg R. Lawson, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, The Buckeye Institute, December 18, 2017.
- [13] Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Ohio Economy at a Glance*, U.S. Department of Labor (Last visited March 16, 2018).

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 4:11 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Should be Reduced to Off-Set Costs of Voting Machines

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)

Apologies, you will have received a press release for testimony Greg R. Lawson will be giving tomorrow on Senate Bill 255. You should have received the below release on Lawson's testimony on Senate Bill 135. I am sorry for the mistake and the inconvenience.

Lisa Gates



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

= A

= A

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Capital Budget Should be

= A

Reduced to Off-Set Costs of Voting Machines

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio Senate Finance Committee on Senate Bill 135

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee on Senate Bill 135.

Lawson opened his testimony telling the committee that The Buckeye Institute supported funding to replace Ohio's aging voting machines, calling it "a wise use of state dollars that serves a core government function." He went on to say, "As we explained in our recent report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, funding Ohio's democratic infrastructure ultimately helps to maintain the integrity of our state."

While Buckeye supports state funding to replace Ohio's aging voting machines, Lawson noted "the capital budget -- and not a separate funding bill -- is the more appropriate legislative vehicle for funding state infrastructure and core government responsibilities." With the decision by policymakers to use a separate funding mechanism, Lawson urged policymakers to off-set the capital budget by the corresponding amount "in order to maintain longer-term spending balance."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 135
Before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
March 20, 2018**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today about an issue critical to all Ohioans -- strengthening our democratic infrastructure.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

Senate Bill 135 includes funding to replace Ohio's aging voting machines -- a wise use of state dollars that serves a core government function. Democratic elections represent the key mechanism by which citizens choose their leaders and hold them accountable. Thus, they undergird the very foundation of our democracy. To maintain the integrity of the election process is to maintain the integrity of our democratic infrastructure. And as we explained in our recent report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*,

funding Ohio's democratic infrastructure ultimately helps to maintain the integrity of our state.[1]

President Ronald Reagan once said, "Every American must know he or she can count on an equal chance and an equal vote." [2] Counting on that equal chance requires counting every vote -- with voting machines. In today's democratic process, voting machines are a key piece of infrastructure on which our elections depend. Unfortunately, many of Ohio's county boards of elections still rely on voting machines purchased more than a decade ago with funds from the federal Help America Vote Act. [3] These machines are in desperate need of replacement.

The Buckeye Institute supports using state funds for new voting machines, but as I mentioned to this Committee last week, the capital budget -- and not a separate funding bill -- is the more appropriate legislative vehicle for funding state infrastructure and core government responsibilities. Funding for voting machines should have been included in the capital budget, and to the extent that a separate mechanism, such as S.B. 135, is used instead, then the capital budget should be off-set by the corresponding amount in order to maintain longer-term spending balance.

Finding cost off-sets in the capital budget to pay for upgrading voting machines is not difficult. Many of the line items listed in our Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018 [4] could be cut or eliminated to pay for replacing our outdated voting machines, including \$4 million for a Cincinnati soccer stadium, \$5 million for retail and restaurant space at COSI in Columbus, and \$400,000 on ill-advised, government-owned broadband networks throughout the state. Reducing state funding for locally-focused projects would make it easier to afford new election machines and other infrastructure needs such as sewers and wastewater treatment facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have.

[1] Greg R. Lawson and Quinn Beeson, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, The Buckeye Institute, February 5, 2018.

[2] President Ronald Reagan, *Statement About the Extension of the Voting Rights Act*, November 6, 1981.

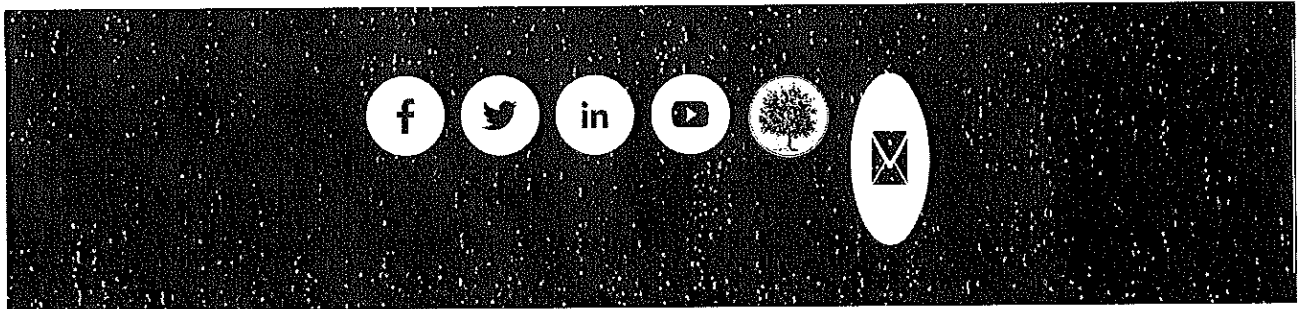
[3] *Husted Calls for Replacement of Ohio's Aging Voting Equipment*, Ohio Secretary of State Office press release, December 14, 2017.

[4] *More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests*, The Buckeye Institute press release, March 5, 2018.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Groups concerned about bill boosting film tax credit

= 9

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

= 9

[View in Browser](#)

= 9  cleveland.com

= 9

= 9

= 9
= 9

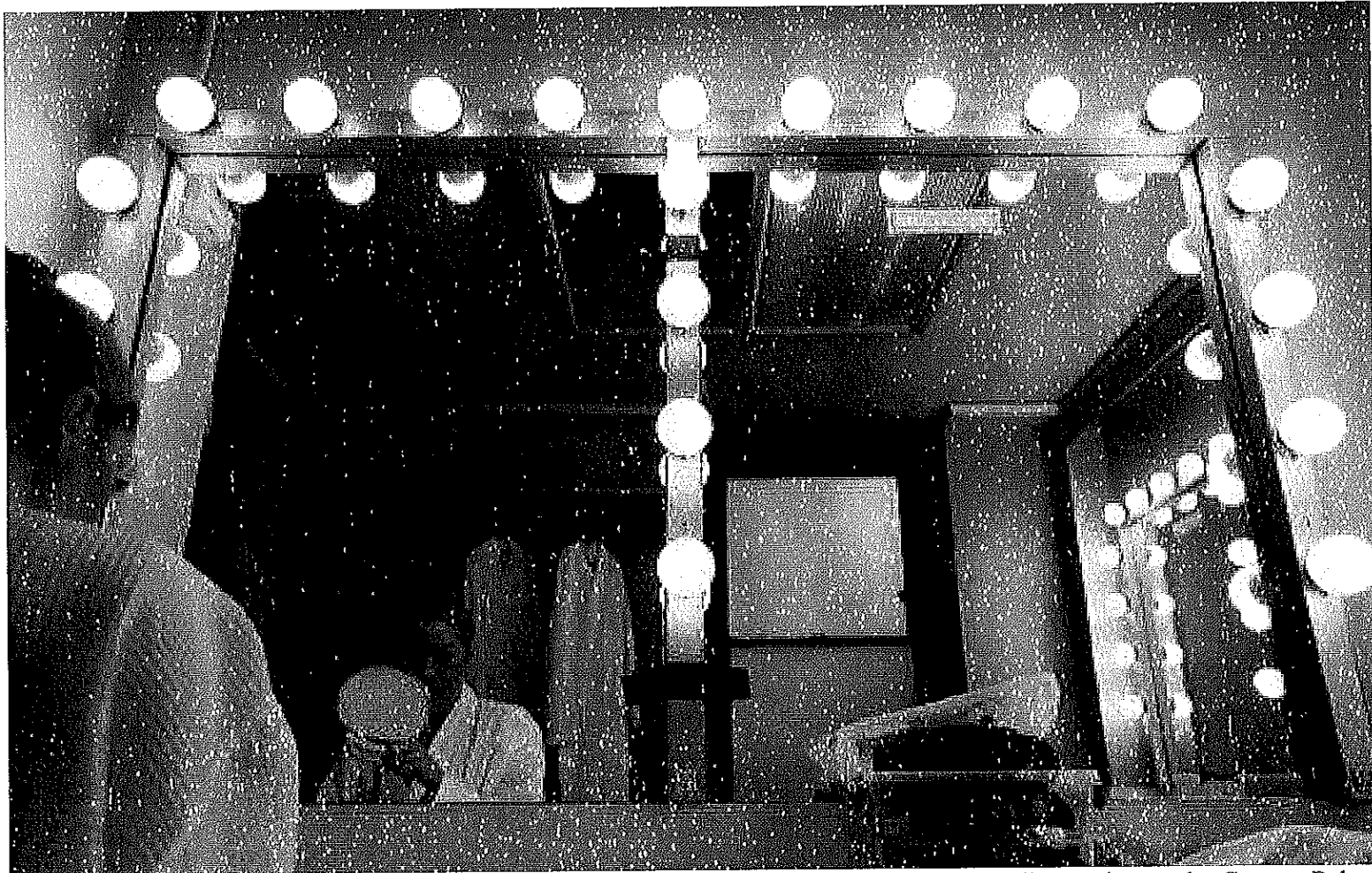
Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

= A

: 9

: A



A Grace Stockdale, a member of the "Waitress" ensemble, prepares her makeup for a media preview at the Connor Palace Oct. 11, in Cleveland. An Ohio General Assembly bill would allow some Broadway productions to apply for the state's film tax credit, and it would more than double the amount available for productions. (Gus Chan / The Plain Dealer)

= 9

= A

= 9

= 9 **Rotunda Rumblings**

= 9

Not seeing stars: Ohio is far from La La Land and the few states where the motion picture industry is concentrated, making a bill that would significantly increase the state's film tax credit unnecessary, says Wendy Patton of the left-leaning Policy Matters Ohio. House Bill 525 would increase the credit from \$40 million to \$100 million annually and would make some Broadway productions eligible for the credit. But Patton told a

House committee Tuesday that entertainment is not one of nine sectors targeted by JobsOhio, and the bill would put the film tax credit on par with the Job Creation Tax Credit, the state's biggest economic development credit.

= 9

Shifting the tax burden? HB 525 would more than double the commercial activity tax credits available to the entertainment industry, the Ohio Manufacturers' Association's Rob Brundrett noted in testimony. Chipping away at the tax base will eventually require an overall tax rate increase to collect the same level of revenue, he said.

= 9

Fight to keep the lights on: FirstEnergy's IT employees regularly send the rest of the company email phishing tests and analyze why people bite, Scott Hipkins, the company's director of security and infrastructure operations, told the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Tuesday. Utilities told PUCO that they are dedicated to fighting cyberattacks. Since at least 2016, the Russian government has hacked networks of small U.S. commercial electric facilities to attempt to compromise the grid. In 2015, Russia compromised IT systems of three energy distribution companies in Ukraine and disrupted the power supply. "We know that we, as a grid if you will, are going to be on someone's list, somewhere around the world, so we have to constantly stay on our game," said Stan Partlow, AEP's chief security officer.

= 9 **Vote yes:** Union County Commissioner Gary Lee and Lake County Commissioner Daniel Troy, who is president of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, pressed lawmakers Tuesday to advance a bill that would provide the local governments with nearly \$115 million to upgrade voting technology. Senate Bill 135 also would create a bipartisan committee of state and local officials to negotiate with vendors on voting equipment. The conservative Buckeye Institute's Greg Larsen also told the Senate Finance Committee that while he supports the bill, he thinks it should be part of the capital budget and not standalone legislation, since it would fund state infrastructure, and elections are a core government responsibility.

= 9 **Packed House:** The Ohio House's busy voting agenda on Wednesday includes bills to curb traffic cameras (House Bill 410), create a permanent

three-day sales tax holiday for clothing and school supplies (Senate Bill 226), require local governments to pass a resolution to file a property-tax complaint, and impose new rules on high-volume dog breeders (House Bill 506) in an attempt to head off an anti-puppy mill ballot issue.

= 9

Speed ahead: The House Finance Committee on Tuesday waved forward bipartisan legislation to set up a \$100 million broadband grant program, though it first approved a sub bill with a number of mostly minor changes -- including a specification that applications for grant money would be prioritized based on Internet speed above other factors.

= 9 **Oops:** The Franklin County Democrats' endorsed candidate to flip Senate District 3 won't make the ballot this year. On Tuesday, Secretary of State Jon Husted ruled that Gahanna attorney Nate Dowds didn't have enough valid signatures, because one of his petitions was circulated by multiple people (which state law doesn't allow). The decision means that Tina Maharath, a financial analyst from Canal Winchester who hasn't run for office before, will be the lone Democrat on the ballot in the race to challenge Rep. Anne Gonzales for the suburban Columbus seat. The job is now held by term-limited GOP Sen. Kevin Bacon.

= 9

Would you like Chipps with that? Besides Maharath, there's also a Democratic write-in candidate for SD-3: Katherine Chipps, a political consultant whose previous jobs include president of NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio and executive director of the Franklin County Democratic Party. It's still unclear, though, whether local Democrats might back Chipps for the nomination instead of Maharath (Chipps didn't leave the county party on the best of terms).

= 9 **Boggs wins appeal:** Husted also ruled Tuesday that Rep. Kristin Boggs can run for re-election as a write-in candidate in House District 18. Boggs, a Columbus Democrat, hastily filed to run as a write-in after being tipped off that she failed to sign one of her signature petitions to appear on the ballot. Now, Boggs needs 50 constituents to write in her name on the ballot to qualify for the November election (which she's expected to win easily over Republican David Todd).

= 9

ORTL endorsements: The political arm of Ohio Right To Life, the state's